



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Policy Statement: Dietitians Providing Telehealth for Established Patients During the COVID-19 Declared Emergency – Policy Number CD-4-20-20

Issuing Entity: Department of Health

Subject Matter: Dietitians licensed in Oregon or Idaho providing treatment to Washington residents using telehealth

Effective Date: April 20, 2020

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
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Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

Title:	Dietitians Providing Telehealth for Established Patients During the COVID-19 Declared Emergency.	Number: CD-4-20-20
References:	Chapter 246-822 WAC , RCW 18.138.010 , RCW 18.138.020	
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Approved By:	Kristin Peterson, Assistant Secretary	

It is the Department of Health’s (Department) position that dietitians licensed in Oregon or Idaho may use telehealth to continue providing treatment to Washington residents, provided the patient-provider relationship was established prior to the COVID-19 declared emergency. The Department makes no representation about the ability to bill for those services, because the Department does not make health care payment decisions for public or private payers of health care services.

Dietitians are permitted to provide telehealth care, provided that the practice does not create an unreasonable risk of harm. Given the social distancing and travel restrictions required by the COVID-19 declared emergency, the Department is clarifying that dietitians from neighboring states may provide telehealth services to their established Washington patients in order to allow for continuity of care.

Dietitians in Oregon or Idaho may use telehealth to continue providing healthcare services to Washington residents without obtaining certification in Washington state under chapter 18.138 RCW if:

1. They are currently licensed or certified to practice as a dietitian in Oregon or Idaho;
2. The patient-provider relationship was established prior to the COVID-19 declared emergency;
3. They do not represent themselves as being a certified dietitian in the state of Washington by using any title or any description of services which incorporates one or more of the following items or designations: “Certified dietitian,” “certified dietician,” “D.,” or “C.D.” Dietitians licensed in Oregon and Idaho may use the titles authorized under Oregon and Idaho law in communicating with their established Washington patients and will not be deemed by the Department to be representing themselves as being certified dietitians under Washington law; and
4. All services provided fall within the scope of dietetics under [RCW 18.138.010](#).

Anyone not meeting the conditions above is required to become certified as a dietitian in Washington State under chapter 18.138 RCW prior to providing services. Any dietitian who intends to continue providing telehealth services to Washington residents over the long term is encouraged to apply for certification in Washington.

In summary, dietitians licensed in Oregon or Idaho may use telehealth to continue providing treatment to Washington residents, provided the patient-provider relationship was established prior to the COVID-19 declared emergency.