



DATE: December 22, 2015  
TO: SUD Provider Network  
FROM: BPA Provider Network Management  
SUBJECT: Tele-Behavioral Health Planning and Implementation

In 2016, IDHW will be allowing providers with approved policies to begin utilizing Tele-Behavioral Health (TBH) as a method of delivering Substance Use Disorder treatment and recovery support services. All IDHW populations over the age of 18 can access services via TBH if it is in the best interest of the participant and they choose to receive services in this manner.

**Services:** Services including Assessment, Group and Individual Outpatient, Case Management, Staffing and Life Skills can be delivered via TBH. A diagram showing all allowable services is attached. TBH includes services delivered via audio or audio-visual communication (text and email are not approved sources of TBH).

**Authorizations:** Providers will not need a special authorization to access TBH, they will only need to select TBH as the location on the encounter note. Both TBH and face-to-face services can be delivered in the same authorization and treatment episode.

**TBH Policy:** Providers must develop and submit a policy detailing how the agency will integrate and utilize Tele-Behavioral Health in their practice. The policy should address how the clinician will determine clinical appropriateness for TBH and how its use is in the best interest of the client as well as addressing how the agency will adhere to the [Outpatient Tele-Behavioral Health Standards](#).

(800) 688-4013  
(208) 947-4377

380 E. Parkcenter Blvd.  
Suite 300  
Boise, ID 83706 USA

*Connect. Improve. Achieve.*

[BPAHealth.com](http://BPAHealth.com)

PC-191-12/22/2015

Elements that are covered in the TBH Standard and should be addressed are: Participant appropriateness, System Requirements, Facility and Readiness, Training and Qualifications, Informed Consent, Privacy and Confidentiality, Documentation and Crisis Intervention.

**Additional resources:** There are many resources available on the Internet to assist with the development of your agency's policy. Links to a few are as follows:

- Telehealth: A Resource for the ATR System of Care ([SAMHSA Technical Assistance Package](#))
- [TeleMental Health Institute](#)
- [Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Campbell at (208) 334-6506/ [CampbelC@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:CampbelC@dhw.idaho.gov) or Sharon Burke at (208) 947-1274/ [sharon.burke@bpahealth.com](mailto:sharon.burke@bpahealth.com).