



October 1, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senate Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and House Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of ATA Action, the American Telemedicine Association's affiliated trade organization, we respectfully urge Congress to promptly reinstate the Medicare telehealth flexibilities and the Acute Hospital Care at Home program and enact a retroactive telehealth reimbursement provision, ensuring that providers and hospital systems are compensated for telehealth services delivered during the government shutdown period. These flexibilities have been in place since 2020, and this is the first time they have lapsed, creating widespread concern and disruption among providers and patients about the future of access to care.

ATA members are navigating the challenges of the government shutdown in real time, and their experiences underscore the urgency of restoring these flexibilities:

- Some providers and systems have decided to continue to provide telehealth services in hopes that Congress will enact a retroactive reimbursement provision - recognizing the critical care outweighs the risk.
- Others are prioritizing patient care immediately for the next few days (continuing telehealth visits), while preparing to take additional operational or financial actions if the shutdown continues.
- In inpatient settings, some hospitals are absorbing costs.
- Some providers and hospital systems are already blocking the ability for beneficiaries to schedule virtual visits.
- Some small clinics are continuing to see patients while monitoring the evolving situation, but they cannot sustain this model without certainty; prolonged uncertainty may lead to significant financial strain and, in some cases, force closures.
- Providers are communicating to patients that they may be responsible for fronting costs if CMS reimbursement is delayed.
- Compliance teams are actively reviewing claims through the ABN process, ensuring that all regulatory and procedural requirements are met despite the uncertainty.



The examples collectively demonstrate that most providers and hospital systems are taking calculated risks to continue care, but long-term continuity depends on Congressional action to restore telehealth flexibilities and ensure retroactive reimbursement.

ATA Action asks Congress and the Administration to consider any existing regulatory or executive authorities to maintain care continuity while awaiting formal Congressional action.

Thank you for your continued leadership and historic support for telehealth. Your efforts have been instrumental in expanding access to care, and we look forward to working with you to immediately reinstate these vital services to ensure millions of patients can continue to receive care where and when they need it.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley".

Kyle Zebley  
Executive Director  
ATA Action