

AHCIP Virtual Care Codes

Quick Reference Guide

This short guide will provide you with information and best practice recommendations to bill for virtual care codes in Alberta.

DoctorCare Best Practices and Recommendations

What are the virtual care codes?

Virtual Care Codes (without limitations)		
Code	Description	Rate
03.01AD	Advice to patient or their agent via telephone, email and video conference including virtual care during a viral epidemic. Maximum 1 per patient per physician per day.	\$20
03.03CV	Assessment provided by General Practitioners (GP) and Specialists via telephone or secure video conference; 10+ minutes physician: patient direct time. Rates will be equal to an in-person limited assessment (HSC 03.03A) and vary by skill.	Base rate: \$25.09
03.03FV	Follow up assessments (visits), for referred patients only, provided by specialists via telephone or secure video conference; 10+ minutes physician: patient direct time. Rates will be equal to an in-person follow-up assessment (HSC 03.03F) and vary by skill.	Base rate: \$32.34
03.08CV	Comprehensive consultations provided via telephone or secure video conference; consultation requirements apply. Rates will be equal to an in-person comprehensive consultation (HSC 03.08A) and vary by skill.	Base rate: \$79.23
08.19CX	Comprehensive psychiatric consultation provided via telephone or secure video conference; consultation requirements apply. Rates will be equal to an in-person psychiatric consultation (HSC 08.19A) and vary by skill.	Base rate: \$52.22
08.19CV	Psychotherapy and other psychiatric services (such as group therapy) provided via telephone or secure video conference by a Psychiatrist or a Generalist in Mental Health. Rates will be equal to an in-person psychiatric assessment (HSC 08.19GA) and vary by skill.	Base rate: \$44.01
08.19CW	Psychotherapy and other psychiatric services (such as group therapy) provided via telephone or secure videoconference by a GP or Pediatrician, per full 15 minutes. Rates will be equal to an in-person psychiatric assessment (HSC 08.19G) and vary by skill.	Base rate: \$47.54

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What are the virtual care codes?
(continued)

Virtual Codes (with limitations)		
Code	Description	Rate
03.05JR	Physician telephone call directly to patient to discuss test results. Maximum of 14 per week per physician.	\$20
03.01S	Physician to patient secure electronic communication. Maximum 1 per patient per week to a maximum 14 per week per physician.	\$20
03.01T	Physician to patient secure video conference. Maximum 1 per patient per week to a maximum 14 per week per physician.	\$20

What are the billing tips and requirements?

- **Visits.** Visits must be initiated by your patient or their agent (i.e. family, spouse, guardian, etc.) meaning that the patient or their agent has either booked the appointment or requested to see you virtually.
- **Consultations.** Consultations are considered initiated on the patient's behalf by virtue of the consultation request.
- **Location of the service.** Location of service is your location at the time of the service. For example, if you provide service while working at home, select "Home".
- **Only physician to patient time can be claimed.** If you choose to complete charting/referral letters after the patient visit/consultation appointment has concluded, you cannot claim this time.
- **Limit of one virtual visit per patient, per physician, per day may be claimed.** Virtual codes cannot be billed with other virtual services or in-person services provided on the same day, by the same physician, for the same patient.
- **Additional premiums.** Additional premiums such as age modifiers, complex modifiers, after-hours time premium, prolonged codes, Business Cost Program (BCP) and Rural Remote Northern Program (RRNP) **will not apply to virtual codes.**
- **Virtual services 10 minutes or less.** Virtual services that are 10 minutes or less **MUST** be claimed using 03.01AD regardless if the service was related to COVID-19.
- **TELES.** The telehealth modifier TELES, does NOT apply to the virtual codes.
- **General COVID-19 information.** None of the above virtual codes may be claimed for providing general information on COVID-19.
- **Limitations of "V" category code.** Virtual care codes do not apply to the limitations of "V" category code as they relate to the Daily Cap for office, home and unregistered facilities.

QUESTIONS?

Call our special Billing Hotline at 1-844-224-6244 or email support@doctorcare.ca