

PSOMS Member Alert: COVID-19 Update

April 21, 2020

Teleconferencing is becoming an important patient management tool during the COVID-19 pandemic and lock-down here in Pennsylvania, the United States as well as the world. Insurance coverage for this service has been in legislation for some time. I wanted to provide an update on a Pennsylvania Senate bill concerning insurance coverage for telemedicine [SB 857](#) (short title: *An Act amending Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for telemedicine, authorizing the regulation of telemedicine by professional licensing boards and providing for insurance coverage of telemedicine.*). **SB 857 was passed by the Senate today** and is headed to the Governor's desk. It had broad based support from the medical community, however the House put in an abortion provision, so there is an expectation that it gets vetoed by the Governor.

Here is the link for the complete bill if you've got a few hours of free time:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2019&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0857&pn=1388>

I'll keep updated on any further details on these developments.

Sincerely,

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President, Pennsylvania Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons