



# HEART BEAT

*The monthly newsletter from The OSCA*

## **SPECIAL EDITION**

### **COVID-19 UPDATE - 3/24/2020**

*In continuing our efforts to answer your questions and help you support your business during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the OSCA will be updating you with a special edition HeartBeat Newsletter.*

## **Helpful Resources**

**Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation Deferral** - To help businesses facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ohio BWC is announcing that insurance premium installment payments due for March, April, and May for the current policy year may be deferred until June 1, 2020. At that time the matter will be reconsidered.

"BWC will not cancel coverage or assess penalties for amounts not paid because of the coronavirus pandemic," said Lt. Governor Husted. "Installment payments due for the three-month period are totaled at approximately \$200 million, and that money will now stay in the economy."

**Ohio Unemployment** - The head of Brennan, Manna, and Diamond's labor and employment team is hosting a webinar tomorrow (3/25) at 8:30am. It is free and you will be able to hear guidance and information from the OSCA's legal team. This is not chiropractic-specific, but can be very helpful to small business owners. If you are interested in attending. Details are here: [Click here if you would like to sign up](#) or send an email to [webinar@bmdllc.com](mailto:webinar@bmdllc.com)

**Small Business Loans** - Ohio small businesses and nonprofits are now eligible to apply for up to a \$2 million, low-interest loan through the SBA. [Click here to apply online](#) , which is recommended, or call (800) 659-2955 to have an application mailed to you.

Still have questions? Ohio's Coronavirus page is updated daily with information for all Ohioans. [Click here to view the resources for economic support page.](#)

**Governor DeWine's Press Conference** - At yesterday's press conference with Governor DeWine, it was stressed the importance of staying home during the newest order. While ODH has outlined that individuals may leave their

home to receive healthcare, if offices have questions specific to their individual offices remaining open, they can consult with their local health department and/or personal legal counsel. [If you wish to tune into the Governor's next press conference, click here.](#) The next conference is scheduled for today (3/24) at 2pm.



# COVID-19 UPDATES & RESOURCES

## OSCA Staff Update



The OSCA would like to inform you that last week Nicholas Strata moved on from the role of Executive Director at the Ohio State Chiropractic Association.

Dr. Brandy Spaulding has agreed to serve as Interim Executive Director. Dr. Spaulding has been with the OSCA since 2017, serving as Director of Chiropractic Services, and most recently, Assistant Executive Director for the Association. Many of you have probably already spoken with Dr. Spaulding, as she has been a main contact for our members and a valuable resource to our association.

We wish Nicholas all the best in his future endeavors, and look forward to Dr. Spaulding filling this important role while the Association searches for its next Executive Director.

## FAQ- TeleHealth

*Another way to serve patients during COVID-19*

The impact of COVID-19 is creating change on a daily basis. At this time, we are seeing less patients, and some offices are closed completely. Telehealth provides an opportunity to continue caring for patients while they may be unable to come to your office.

### **Is telehealth within your scope of practice?**

Yes. You must ensure that the standard of care is met for any service that is rendered. For example, it would not be expected to render a CMT service through telehealth. However, you could meet the standard of care when conducting a consultation or therapeutic exercise, for example.

## **Does the licensing board have specific requirements on how the telehealth visits must be conducted? (Synchronous, asynchronous, etc?)**

No.

## **Is telehealth HIPAA compliant?**

Telehealth can be conducted in a HIPAA compliant manner.

Due to the current crisis HHS has issued a notice that additional applications will be allowed: *“Under this Notice, covered health care providers may use popular applications that allow for video chats, including Apple FaceTime, Facebook Messenger video chat, Google Hangouts video, or Skype, to provide telehealth without risk that OCR might seek to impose a penalty for noncompliance with the HIPAA Rules related to the good faith provision of telehealth during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency.”*

[Use this link to read the full notice.](#)

## **Is telehealth covered by third party payers?**

Below is information specific to payers in Ohio. This varies by payer. These will be updated on our new [Telehealth Page](#) as new information becomes available.

### **Ohio BWC**

Ohio BWC does cover telehealth services. They have updated their telehealth policy due to COVID-19:

*“In response to the COVID-19 crisis, BWC is initiating temporary policy changes that will allow flexibility in the provision of care to injured workers. These changes will be effective until the state of emergency related to COVID-19 is lifted within the state where the injured worker resides.”*

[See the updated policy here.](#)

### **Ohio Medicaid**

While Ohio Medicaid is allowing telehealth services, because chiropractic coverage within Medicaid is limited to CMT, spinal x-ray and acupuncture (with the added certificate), and those services cannot be rendered by telehealth, telehealth visits would not be reimbursed at this time.

### **Medicare**

While Medicare is allowing telehealth services, because chiropractic coverage within Medicare is limited to CMT, and CMT cannot be rendered through a telehealth visit, this would not be a covered service within Medicare. A patient with Medicare coverage can still choose to conduct a telehealth visit with you but you would want to provide voluntary advance notification of non-coverage of the service and notify the patient of their financial responsibility.

Current federal legislation, HR 3654 Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act of 2019, if passed would allow DCs to practice to the full scope of their state license. [Click here to reach out to your congressional leaders to co-sponsor this bill.](#)

### **Commercial payers**

OSCA has reached out to Medical Mutual, Anthem, Aetna and United Healthcare to determine their policy on telehealth, including any crisis updates

to those policies. Specific questions asked include:

- Is telehealth covered?
- Is it covered for new patients?
- Do you have a written policy? Policy updates?
- Do you have requirements on how the visit is conducted? Audio, video, both, etc
- Reimbursement – is it the same as face to face services?

### **Telehealth How-to Webinars - learn more about telehealth!**

[ChiroUp Webinar](#): a Youtube video to help you understand telehealth basics.

[Best Practices Academy](#): a free module specifically on Telehealth for chiropractors is expected to be released today.



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