~~(B) A CARRIER MAY REIMBURSE A LICENSED PHYSICIAN FOR MEDICAL ADVICE TRANSMITTED TO A PATIENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL IF THE LICENSED PHYSICIAN HAS TREATED THE PATIENT NO MORE THAN 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE TRANSMISSION OF THE MEDICAL ADVICE BY ELECTRONIC MAIL.~~

~~(C) IF A CARRIER ELECTS TO REIMBURSE A LICENSED PHYSICIAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE CARRIER SHALL REIMBURSE THE LICENSED PHYSICIAN AT A RATE NOT LESS THAN 50% OF THE RATE NEGOTIATED IN THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER CONTRACT WITH THE PHYSICIAN FOR THE SAME MEDICAL ADVICE GIVEN IN AN IN-PERSON CONSULTATION.~~

~~(D) (1) A CARRIER THAT ELECTS TO REIMBURSE A LICENSED PHYSICIAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL NOTIFY INDIVIDUALS INSURED BY THE CARRIER OF THE POLICY OF THE CARRIER TO REIMBURSE A LICENSED PHYSICIAN FOR MEDICAL ADVICE TRANSMITTED BY ELECTRONIC MAIL.~~

~~(2) A LICENSED PHYSICIAN SHALL NOTIFY A PATIENT OF ANY COSTS THAT THE PATIENT MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEFORE THE PHYSICIAN PROVIDES MEDICAL ADVICE TO A PATIENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL.~~

The University of Maryland School of Medicine:

(1) shall study, *in consultation with the School of Nursing and other stakeholders,* issues regarding the use of and reimbursement for telemedicine, including the following:

(i) the current use of telemedicine in the State:

(ii) the use of and reimbursement for telemedicine in other states:

(iii) the potential for telemedicine to improve access to health care in underserved areas of the State:

~~(iii)~~ (iv) how any reimbursement for telemedicine in other states has increased access to health care in those states; and

~~(iv)~~ (v) any current barriers in the State to reimbursement for telemedicine; and

(2) shall, on or before January 1, 2007, report its findings, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2006.

Approved May 2, 2006.

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