

PLANK 3 - SUPPORTING CONSUMERS

RESOLUTION 3.01:

PROMOTE TELEMEDICINE

Recent studies indicate that the use of telemedicine and telehealth services by employers is on the rise. As more health care services become available through remote communications and technologies, employers will determine whether to offer these services as part of their employees' benefit offering.

The Alliance recognizes that telemedicine and telehealth technology use represents a growing sector of the health care industry. The use of telemedicine and telehealth services can provide cost savings to employers and increased access to health care for employees. Beyond cost savings, employers also look to these services to improve employee productivity and reduce absenteeism. Telemedicine and telehealth are particularly important to ensure timely access to needed health care services in rural or underserved communities, and to address significant access challenges that occur in psychiatry and other behavioral health services.

The Alliance supports efforts to work collaboratively with purchasers, providers and regulators to advance access and use of telemedicine and telehealth services, while recognizing the need for consistent telehealth policies across the states that do not create unnecessary barriers to health care services.

Alliance members believe consistent state rules and broad definitions of these services and technologies are important to their ability to offer these services as a benefit to their employees. The Alliance urges state regulators, medical boards, legislatures and others to adopt telemedicine and telehealth policies that will enhance the availability and effectiveness of these services and control their cost.

Source:

The ERISA Industry Committee. (2015, June 14). The ERIC telehealth initiative [Web log post]. Retrieved at <https://www.eric.org/health/the-eric-telehealth-initiative/>