

# Medicare Telehealth Coverage

MEDICARE MINUTE

April 2026

PRESENTED BY

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MEDICARE  
**Interactive**  
BY MEDICARE RIGHTS CENTER



# About Medicare Rights Center

The Medicare Rights Center is a national, nonprofit consumer service organization that works to ensure access to affordable health care for older adults and people with disabilities through:

- Counseling and advocacy
- Educational programs
- Public policy initiatives



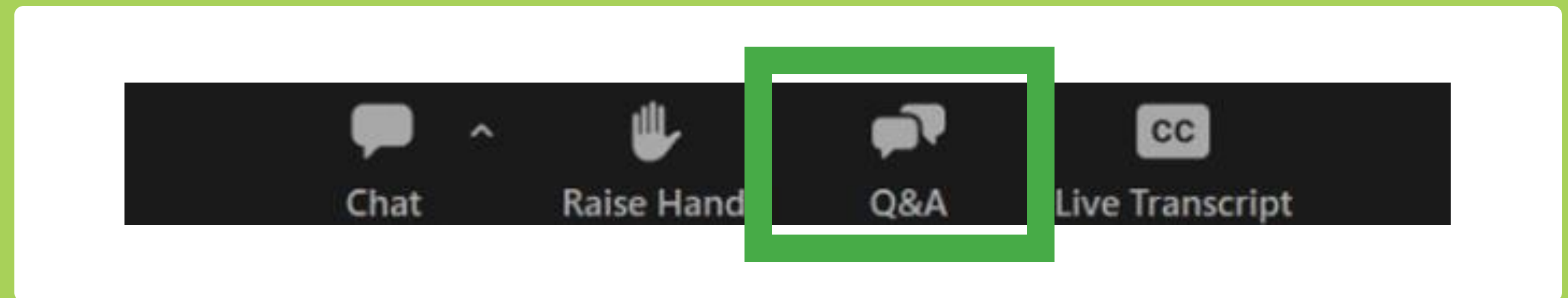
# Medicare Minute

Medicare Minutes give you quick, engaging insights into the latest Medicare topics. Join us live each month on Medicare Interactive to stay informed, understand your benefits, and make the most of your Medicare coverage.



# Use Q&A to ask questions

Hover your mouse near the bottom of the webinar window and press on the Q&A button



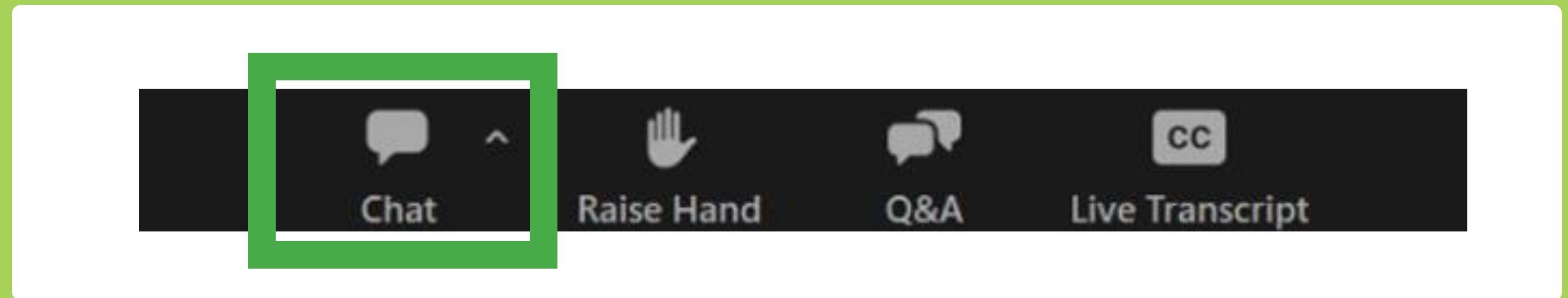
# Asking questions

- Q&A box opens in new window or at side of your screen
- Click on text box at the bottom, type your question in and press Send
- Response appears below your question once it is answered

The image shows a Q&A interface. At the top, there are two window titles: "Q&A" and "Q&A". The main window has two tabs: "All questions(1)" and "My questions(1)". A question from "Emily" (EW) is shown, asking "What does Medicare Part B cover?" with a timestamp of "04:21 PM". Below the question is a "Collapse all (1) ^" link. An answer from "Medicare Rights" (MR) is shown, stating "Medicare Part B covers outpatient medical care." with a timestamp of "04:23 PM". At the bottom, a modal form is displayed, containing the question "What does Medicare Part B cover?", a checkbox for "Send anonymously", and "Cancel" and "Send" buttons.

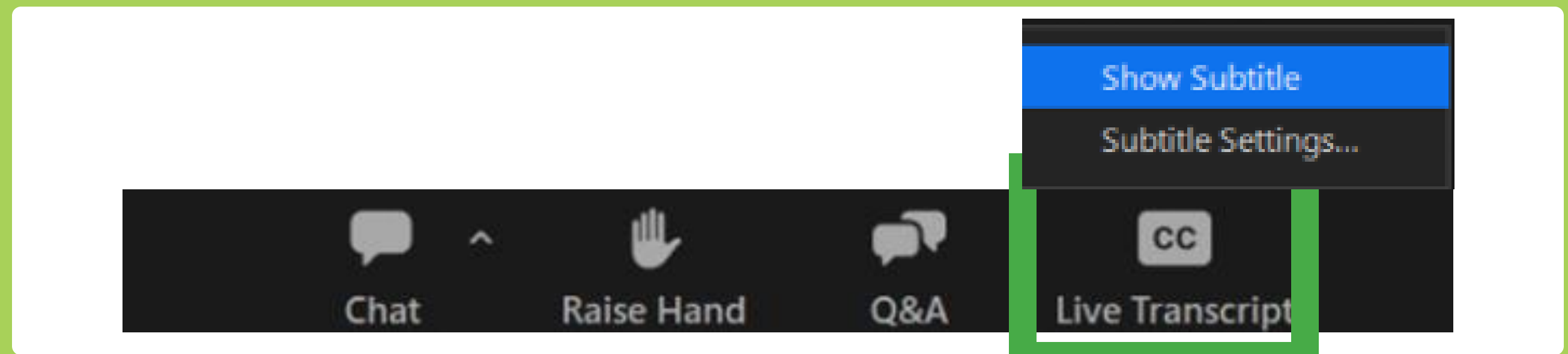
# Use chat for tech support

If you have tech questions during the webinar, please put them in the chat. Click on Chat button at bottom of webinar window



# Show subtitles

Select the CC button  
Select "Show Subtitle"



# Access the slide deck before

On Medicare Interactive's Medicare Minute page

Medicare Minute > Part B vs. Part D Drugs

CONCLUDED APRIL 17, 2025

## Part B vs. Part D Drugs


Part D always covers medications, right? Not quite! There are some drugs that can be covered under both Part B or Part D—depending on what the drug is used for and how it's administered.

Misunderstanding Part B versus Part D drugs can lead to complications for you at the pharmacy or with your billing. Join us for this Medicare Minute to learn the difference between Part B and Part D drugs.

Share:      FAVORITE

 SLIDE DECK

TOPICS

 MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE (PART D)

# Access the slide deck and Q&A after

Slides are available before the webinar and Q&A is available within a week after

[Medicare Minute](#) > [Part B vs. Part D Drugs](#)

CONCLUDED APRIL 17, 2025

## Part B vs. Part D Drugs

Part D always covers medications, right? Not quite! There are some drugs that can be covered under both Part B or Part D—depending on what the drug is used for and how it's administered. Misunderstanding Part B versus Part D drugs can lead to complications for you at the pharmacy or with your billing. Join us for this Medicare Minute to learn the difference between Part B and Part D drugs.

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TOPICS

- MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE (PART D)

# **This presentation will cover**

## **Telehealth definition**

Understand Medicare telehealth services

## **Past telehealth services coverage**

Learn about Medicare's past coverage of telehealth services

## **Current telehealth services coverage and future changes**

Know Medicare's current coverage of telehealth services and upcoming changes

# Telehealth services

What is telehealth?



# What is telehealth?

Telehealth includes certain services that you receive from a health care provider outside of an in-person office

- A telehealth service is a full visit with a provider using phone or video technology.
- It is different from a virtual check-in or health portal messages



# Medicare-covered telehealth services

Medicare-covered telehealth benefits include:

- Lab test result consultations
- Prescription management
- Health screenings
- Visits to evaluate urgent care issues like colds or coughs



# Past telehealth coverage

Telehealth coverage before  
COVID-19



# Past telehealth coverage

Before the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Medicare telehealth coverage was very limited

- Telehealth services were generally only covered in rural areas
- You would have to go to a specific “originating site” to receive telehealth services
- Telehealth was generally only covered if it was provided via interactive, two-way audio and video technology
- Telehealth was limited to certain providers



# Current telehealth coverage

Telehealth coverage during  
and after COVID-19



# Current telehealth coverage

During the public health emergency and after, telehealth coverage has been temporarily expanded to include more flexibilities and allow more people to receive care from their homes

- Telehealth services are covered for all beneficiaries in any geographic area.
  - You can receive telehealth services in your own home
- Any health care professional that is eligible to bill Medicare can provide and bill for telehealth services.
  - You can access telehealth from more providers



# Current telehealth coverage

The expanded telehealth coverage has been extended through December 31, 2027

- Through 2027:
  - Telehealth services are covered for all beneficiaries in any geographic area at home in addition to health care settings
  - Telehealth can sometimes be delivered using audio only
  - Telehealth can be provided by any health care professional that is eligible to bill Medicare



# Future telehealth coverage

Telehealth coverage after Dec  
31st, 2027



# Future telehealth coverage

Without further congressional action, after December 31, 2027, most telehealth services will again be more limited

- Some flexibilities have been made permanent.
  - Telehealth services will be still available regardless of geographic area for certain types of care
    - Behavioral/mental health care, monthly end-stage renal disease visits for home dialysis, diabetes self-management training, and Medicare nutrition therapy.
  - Telehealth will still be able to be delivered using audio-only communication platforms for behavioral-mental health care.



# Knowledge Check



# True or False

Telehealth is the same as virtual check-ins or health portal messages.

Submit your answer in the chat or think to yourself.

# False

Telehealth is different from a virtual check-in or health portal messages. A telehealth service is a full visit with a provider using phone or video technology.

# True or False

Before the COVID-19 public health emergency, someone with Original Medicare usually could not receive telehealth services from home.

Submit your answer in the chat or think to yourself.

# True

Before the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, Medicare telehealth coverage was very limited. Someone with Original Medicare would usually have to go to a specific “originating site” to receive telehealth services.

# True or False

Medicare will always cover telehealth for all its beneficiaries.

Submit your answer in the chat or think to yourself.

# False

During the public health emergency and after, telehealth coverage has been temporarily expanded to include more flexibility and allow more people to receive care from their homes. However, without further congressional action, after December 31, 2027, most telehealth services will again be more limited.

# True or False

Some telehealth flexibilities have been made permanent for Medicare beneficiaries.

Submit your answer in the chat or think to yourself.

# True

After December 31, 2027, telehealth services will still be available regardless of geographic area for certain types of care, such as behavioral/mental health care, monthly End-Stage Renal Disease visits for home dialysis, diabetes self-management training, and Medicare nutrition therapy.

Telehealth will still be delivered using audio-only communication platforms for behavioral-mental health care.

Other types of care will be subject to restrictions from before the Public Health Emergency.

# Take Action

- Speak with your doctor or other health care provider to learn about the telehealth services they offer and if they may be appropriate for your health care needs.
- Contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) if you have questions about Medicare's telehealth coverage. To contact your local SHIP, visit [www.shiphelp.org](http://www.shiphelp.org) or call 877-839-2675.
- Contact your Medicare Advantage Plan if you have questions about its coverage and costs related to telehealth services.



# Resources

## National Helpline

800-333-4114

## Medicare Interactive

[www.medicareinteractive.org](http://www.medicareinteractive.org)

## Dear Marci Newsletter

[www.medicarerights.org/newsletters](http://www.medicarerights.org/newsletters)

## Survey

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/medicare-minute](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/medicare-minute)



# Thank You

We appreciate your participation and engagement today!

**Next month**

**Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage Appeals**

Thursday, May 21  
3:00 – 3:30PM EST