



## Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Int 0675-2022, **Version:** \*

---

Int. No. 675

By Council Members Hudson, Louis, Restler, Hanif, Brewer, Sanchez, Velázquez, Barron, Stevens, Avilés, Won, Krishnan, Gutiérrez, Narcisse, De La Rosa, Abreu, Ossé, Cabán, Nurse, Joseph, Bottcher, Lee, Brooks-Powers, Ung, Brannan, Riley, Williams, Powers, Farías, Schulman, Salamanca and Ayala (by request of the Manhattan Borough President)

A Local Law in relation to requiring the department of health and mental hygiene to create a telemedicine accessibility plan

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 17-2001 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 107 for the year 2021, is amended to read as follows:

§ 17-2001 Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

Department. The term “department” means the department of health and mental hygiene or such other agency or entity as the mayor may designate.

Epic care link. The term “epic care link” means a web based application that connects organizations to their community affiliates and allows for referrals into the city’s public health care system.

Primary care services. The term “primary care services” means medical services for which participants shall have a primary care physician or primary care practitioner, as such terms are defined in section 901 of the public health law, to help develop, direct and coordinate their plan and course of care and health management, including referrals for testing and specialty services and management of chronic conditions and diseases.

Patient navigator program. The term “patient navigator program” means a program which assists patients in accessing primary care and specialty services and in coordinating such care.

Portable monitoring device. The term “portable monitoring device” means portable equipment that is

designed to measure vital signs, such as blood pressure, glucose level, pulse rate, or blood oxygen level, and display the value or transmit the value to a remote device, including but not limited to blood pressure monitors, glucometers, and pulse oximeters.

Telehealth device. The term “telehealth device” means an electronic device capable of audio and visual telecommunication between a patient and a health care professional, including but not limited to tablet devices, laptops, and similar portable devices.

Telemedicine service. The term “telemedicine service” means a system that allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients using telecommunications technology.

Telepatient population. The term “telepatient population” means persons who would benefit from telemedicine services, or for whom regular in-person access to healthcare professionals is not reasonably feasible, including but not limited to elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and incarcerated persons.

§ 2. Chapter 20 of title 17 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 17-2003 to read as follows:

§ 17-2003 Telemedicine accessibility plan. a. The department shall develop a telemedicine accessibility plan to improve the availability and accessibility of telemedicine services for the telepatient population. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Providing or making available portable monitoring devices to telepatient populations.
2. Providing or making available needed telehealth devices to telepatient populations.
3. Conducting outreach to telepatient populations to provide information on telemedicine services.
4. Conducting outreach to health care professionals to improve the availability of telemedicine services and implement best practices for providing such services.

b. No later than one year after the effective date of this local law, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit to the mayor and the speaker of the council a report on its telemedicine plan, including the number and type of portable monitoring devices and telehealth devices it has provided or made available, and the

location each portable monitoring device and telehealth device was provided to, or made available at, the report shall be disaggregated by the borough of each location, the type of portable monitoring device or telehealth device, and by any other factors that may be appropriate.

§ 3. This local law shall take effect immediately after it becomes law.

Session 12

XC

LS #5352

9/2/2022 1:02pm