



Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP)

Distance Learning Webinar

Date: November 14th, 2024

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Webinar Objectives

Objectives of Today's Webinar

- Share information related to MDPP rules and requirements for distance learning.
- Provide an overview of billing for distance learning sessions.
- Discuss tips for successful implementation and present additional resources for distance learning.

What is Distance Learning in MDPP?

The Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP)

MDPP is a group-based preventive service offered to Medicare beneficiaries at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

- MDPP provides training and strategies for long-term healthy eating, increased physical activity, and weight loss.
- MDPP's goal is to prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes via weight loss and behavioral change.



HEALTHY
EATING



PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY



WEIGHT
LOSS

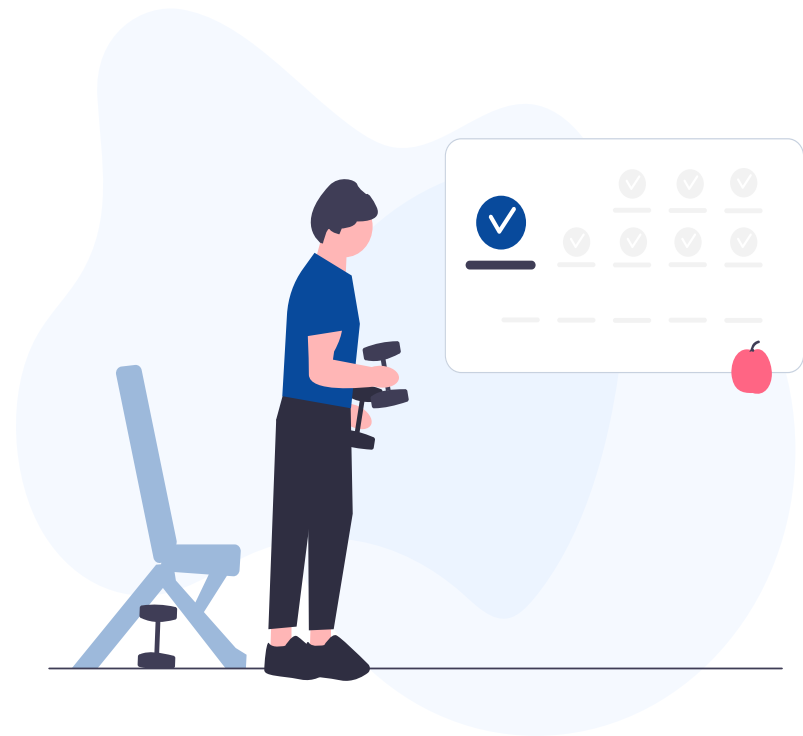
Flexibilities first implemented during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), which have been extended through December 31, 2027, allow MDPP suppliers to offer MDPP virtually via distance learning.



Distance Learning Overview

- A **distance learning** session is delivered by trained coaches via remote classroom. The coach provides live (synchronous) delivery of session content in one location and participants call in or video-conference from another location. Distance learning does not include asynchronous or pre-recorded online delivery. All virtual sessions must be delivered in real-time.
- Distance learning sessions are furnished in a manner consistent with the 2024 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Diabetes Recognition Program (DPRP) Standards.¹ MDPP suppliers must ensure that distance learning sessions follow CDC-approved curriculum, data collection requirements, and Medicare's billing and reimbursement procedures.

Distance Learning Benefits Both Suppliers and Participants



- ***Advances Health Equity Goals*** by expanding MDPP access to beneficiaries in rural and/or medically underserved areas
- ***Expands Reach For Suppliers*** by enabling them to serve more beneficiaries across a larger geographic area
- ***Offers Convenience*** for many beneficiaries with transportation barriers, limited mobility, and/or other physical limitations

Success Story: Transitioning to Distance Learning

National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKFM)

- NKFM launched their first distance learning cohort in 2020, during the COVID-19 PHE.
- NKFM observed that distance learning facilitated **expanded outreach among the Black/African American population**.
 - The increase in Black/African American participants is attributed to community partnerships, culturally diverse coaches, and tailored messaging.
- Preliminary findings from NKFM suggest that **distance learning is as effective as in-person sessions in meeting program goals**.
 - The program led to improved health outcomes, including weight loss, self-reported lower A1c levels, and reduced blood pressure
 - The distance learning cohort achieved or surpassed the 5% weight loss goal, with participants showing a median weight loss of 5.6%

Visit the [NKFM website](#) for more information.

How Does a Supplier Prepare to Offer Distance Learning?

The MDPP Supplier Enrollment Process is the Same for In-Person and Distance Learning Session Delivery

Four Main Steps:

- Apply for CDC DPRP Recognition
- Prepare to Enroll as an MDPP supplier
- Achieve CDC DPRP Recognition*
- Apply to become an MDPP supplier



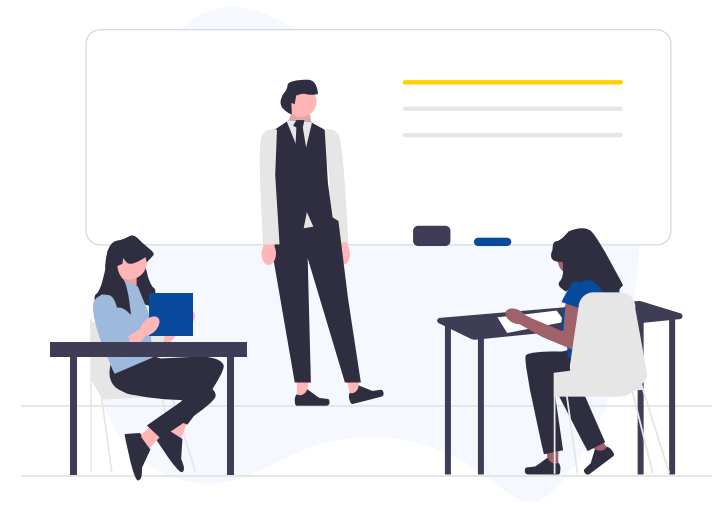
CY2025 PFS Final Rule:

Suppliers can have and maintain MDPP enrollment with an *“in-person with a distance learning component”* CDC DPRP organizational code

*Note: Some organizations can be fast-tracked to preliminary recognition, skipping the 12-month pending recognition stage. Please see the [CDC’s National DPP Customer Service Center](#) for more information.

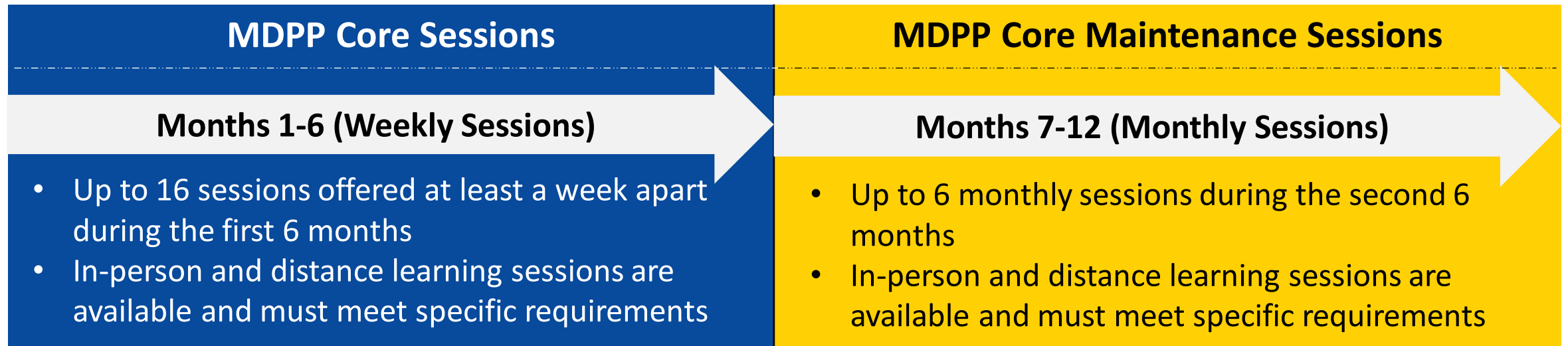
Coach Training is the Same for In-Person and Distance Learning Session Delivery

- Coaches must be trained based on CDC DPRP Standards.¹
- Coaches must meet MDPP coach eligibility requirements and have a valid National Provider Identifier (NPI).²
- There are a limited number of coach training scholarships available.³



Distance-Learning Delivery is Similar to In-Person Delivery

Services include six months of weekly core sessions followed by six months of monthly maintenance sessions (max 22 sessions).



- Distance learning can be offered through various digital platforms. As with in-person organizations, online or distance learning CDC-recognized organizations need to comply with HIPAA rules and regulations.
- Make-up sessions can be offered both in person and via distance learning.

Knowledge Check #1



TRUE OR FALSE



Suppliers need to have a distance learning CDC DPRP organizational code in order to provide distance learning sessions.



Suppliers must have an active *“in-person”* CDC DPRP organizational code to enroll and maintain their status as an MDPP supplier. Starting in 2025, suppliers will also be able to have an *“in-person with a distance learning component”* organizational code.

Knowledge Check #2



TRUE OR FALSE



Suppliers need to enroll in every state and with every MAC where beneficiaries are located to offer distance learning MDPP sessions.



Suppliers only need to submit an MDPP enrollment application for each state in which they have an administrative location and work with the MAC(s) in that (those) jurisdiction(s). An administrative location is the physical location associated with an organization's operations (e.g., billing).

Knowledge Check #3



TRUE OR FALSE



Beneficiaries must live in the same state as the supplier providing distance learning sessions.



Beneficiaries can receive distance learning sessions from any supplier regardless of where they or the supplier are located.

Weight Reporting for Distance Learning

Recording Beneficiary Weights for Distance Learning

- Weights are collected during each session and can be obtained through:
 - **Live, synchronous online video technology**, such as video chatting or video conferencing, where the coach observes the beneficiary weighing themselves and confirms the reading
 - **Self-reporting**, where the beneficiary sends one clear and visible date-stamped photo or video that documents their weight on the digital scale, with the beneficiary visible in their home
 - **Digital scales** that transmit weight measurements securely via wireless or cellular transmission



CY2025 PFS Final Rule:

In addition to the current weight collection methods, beneficiaries will also have the option to self-report weight by sending two date-stamped photos: one showing their weight on a digital scale, and one showing the beneficiary visible in their home.

MDPP Supplier Record-Maintenance Requirements

- Similar to the requirements for in-person sessions, MDPP suppliers offering sessions via distance learning must retain all books, contracts, weight records, and related documents for 10 years
- The retention period starts from the last day the beneficiary received MDPP services via distance learning or the date of completion of any audit, evaluation, inspection, or investigation – whichever is later



Does MDPP Cover the Cost of Digital Scales?

- MDPP **does not** cover the cost of digital scales. Suppliers may provide digital scales and other items or services that advance MDPP programmatic goals (e.g., food-measuring devices, wearable activity tracking devices, discounted gym memberships) as Beneficiary Engagement Incentives (BEIs).
- BEIs are optional and provided at the supplier's expense; CMS does not offer funding for BEIs.
- BEIs must meet MDPP engagement incentive regulations.¹
- Suppliers are advised to seek legal counsel to ensure compliance with MDPP regulations.

Billing for Distance Learning Sessions

G-codes for Distance Learning Claim Submission

	CORE SESSIONS MONTHS 1-6 (MAX 16 SESSIONS)	CORE MAINTENANCE SESSIONS MONTHS 7-12 (MAX 6 SESSIONS)
Fee-For-Service Payments	G9887 (\$25): MDPP participant attended a session through distance learning for 60 minutes	
Performance Payments	G9880 (\$145): MDPP participant achieved 5% weight loss from baseline weight	
	G9881 (\$25): MDPP participant achieved 9% weight loss from baseline weight	G9888 (\$8): MDPP beneficiary maintained 5% weight loss from baseline weight in months 7-12
Other Payments	G9890 (\$25): Bridge payment: A one-time payment for the first MDPP core session or core maintenance session furnished by a new MDPP supplier when an MDPP participant switches suppliers during months 1–12	

Note: The G-codes presented in this table are based on the Calendar Year 2024 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and relevant for distance learning claims with dates of service starting January 1, 2024.



CY2025 PFS Final Rule:

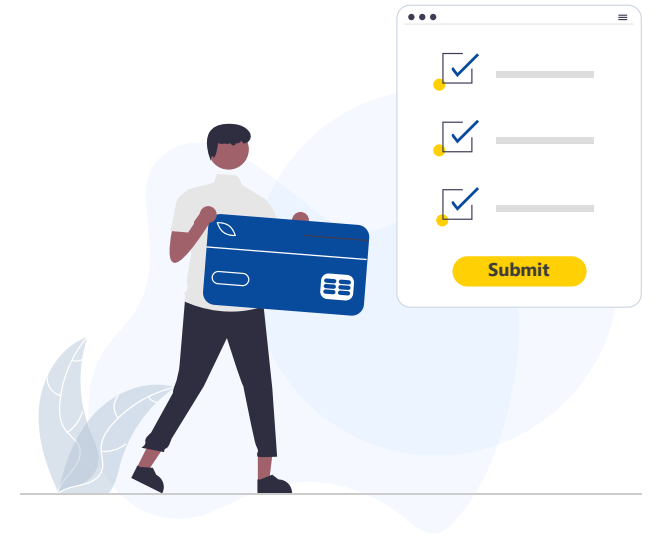
Make-up sessions on the same day as a regularly scheduled session will be allowed. To prevent claim rejections for duplicate services, suppliers would need to append CPT Modifier 76 (“Repeat procedure by same physician”) to code G9887 to identify a same day make-up session.

Bridge payments will be removed as they are no longer necessary in MDPP’s CY 2024 payment structure.

Guidelines for Distance Learning Claim Submission

Information to include when submitting a distance learning claim:

- Demo code: **82** (“Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program”)
- Billing provider NPI (the supplier’s NPI)
- Rendering provider NPI (the coach’s NPI)
- Date of service for each MDPP session
- Beneficiary first name, last name, and Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)
- Health care Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) G-code for each MDPP service
- Place of Service (POS) code – Recommend to use **“Other” (99)** for distance learning sessions



Use Case 1: Supplier With One Administrative Location Only Offers Distance Learning Sessions

Organization A is a health tech company with one administrative location in New York. It would like to start offering MDPP distance learning sessions to eligible beneficiaries nationwide. Organization A does not plan to offer any in-person MDPP sessions.

To enroll in MDPP as a supplier, Organization A will submit one enrollment application.

Since its administrative location in New York is in MAC Jurisdiction K, it will work only with National Government Services, Inc. (NGS) to submit their MDPP claims for distance learning sessions.



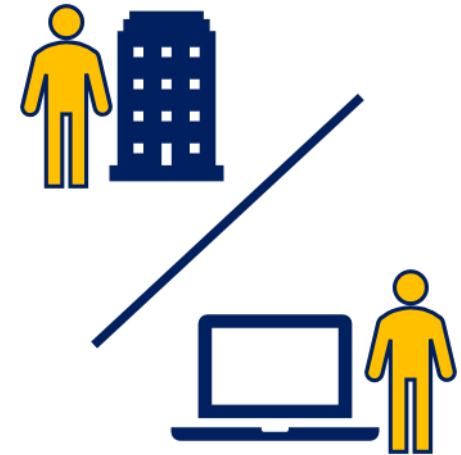
Use Case 2: Supplier With One Administrative Location Offers Both In-Person and Distance Learning Sessions

Organization B has one administrative location in Ohio. It plans to offer MDPP to eligible beneficiaries through both in-person and distance learning sessions.

Organization B will submit one enrollment application, and since its administrative location in Ohio is in MAC Jurisdiction 15, it will work only with CGS Administrators, LLC (CGS) to submit all their MDPP claims.

To bill for attendance of distance learning sessions, it will submit claims using HCPCS G-Code **G9887** and POS code "**Other**" (99).

To bill for attendance of in-person sessions, it will submit claims using HCPCS G-Code **G9886** and the POS code for the location where the MDPP service was provided [e.g., "Office" (11)].



Use Case 3: Supplier Offers Distance Learning Sessions with Coaches in Various Locations

Organization C employs five coaches who lead distance learning sessions, and has an administrative location in New York. Two coaches work out of the organization's administrative location, whereas the other three coaches work remotely from their homes.

The supplier's enrollment application was submitted based on its administrative location in New York, not the location of the coaches.

To bill for attendance of distance learning sessions with any coach, it submits claims using HCPCS G-Code **G9887** and POS code "**Other**" (99).

Claims are submitted based on the administrative location, not the location of any of the coaches.



Tips for Success

Common Challenges of Distance Learning

- ***Limited Access to or Familiarity with Technology***
 - Beneficiaries may not be accustomed to using digital platforms, tools, and other technologies required for distance learning
- ***Weight Measurement***
 - Required weight reporting may be difficult for beneficiaries with mobility issues or for those who lack access to certain technologies

Examples of Current Supplier Practices

- **Introductory meeting (“Session Zero”): prior to the start of MDPP services (not covered by MDPP)**
 - Onboarding tool
 - Helps beneficiaries and suppliers build familiarity with technology and set clear expectations
 - Helps address challenges early on and maximize engagement throughout the program
- **Pre-session meeting: immediately prior to an MDPP session (not covered by MDPP)**
 - Creates a structured, supportive environment for beneficiaries to report their weight consistently and privately
 - Facilitates accurate data collection and compliance with MDPP rules for distance learning
 - Ensures beneficiaries understand how to use distance learning technology
 - Suppliers note that these meetings promote accountability, support personalized coaching, and enhance the overall distance learning experience.

Please note that these examples of supplier practices are optional for suppliers to implement, and they are not covered by MDPP.

Success Story: Overcoming Distance Learning Challenges

Johns Hopkins Brancati Center (Maryland)

- Some suppliers have integrated **wraparound services to promote technological literacy and internet access** among MDPP participants
- The Brancati Center employs two full-time community health workers to facilitate outreach and provide wraparound services
 - State-based funding to loan technological devices to MDPP participants for one year
 - Referrals to community resources to facilitate internet access
 - Virtual and in-person tutorials to support participants who need assistance using technological devices for distance learning sessions

Summary of CY2025 PFS Changes to MDPP Distance Learning

CY2025 PFS Changes that Impact Distance Learning

- **New CDC DPRP Code:** Suppliers can have and maintain MDPP enrollment with an “*in-person with a distance learning component*” CDC DPRP organizational code.
- **New Option for Self-reporting Weights:** Beneficiaries can send two date-stamped photos with one photo showing the beneficiary’s weight as it appears on their digital scale, and one photo of the beneficiary visible in their home. Beneficiaries can still choose to send one date-stamped photo if they are able to capture both themselves and their weight on the digital scale.
- **New Availability of Same-day Make-up Sessions:** To prevent claim rejections for duplicate services, suppliers would need to append CPT Modifier 76 (“Repeat procedure by same physician”) to any claim for G9887 to identify a same day make-up session.
- **Removal of Bridge Payments:** Bridge payments (G9890) will be removed as they are no longer necessary in MDPP’s CY 2024 payment structure.



Please see the [Federal Register](#) to learn more about the CY 2025 PFS changes.

Resources and Additional Information

Helpful Resources



Want to find out more about distance learning?

Head to [MDPP FAQs](#) for more information



Want more information on supplier standards?

Head to the [MDPP Supplier Fact Sheet](#)



Want more information on MDPP claims?

Head to the [MDPP FFS Billing and Payment Fact Sheet](#) and the [MDPP Medicare Advantage Fact Sheet](#)



Want to access a complete list of existing MDPP suppliers?

Head to the [current list of MDPP suppliers](#)



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If you have any questions or feedback to share, please visit the [MDPP Supplier Support Center](#)

Questions?

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