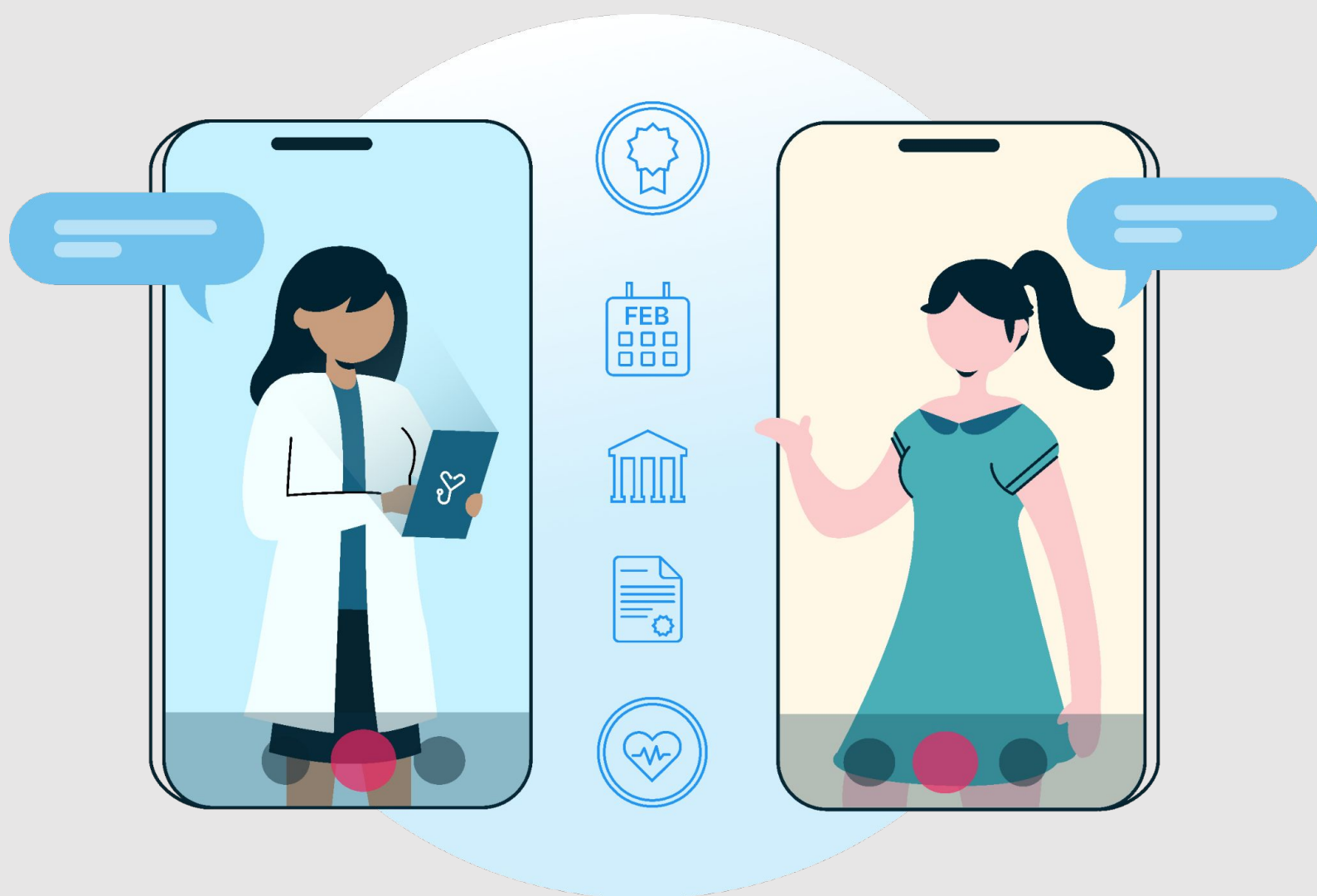
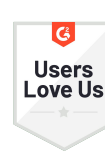


Quick Factsheet: 2023 Telehealth Policy Update



Matt McBride, MBA
CEO & Co-Founder of Mend



Quick Factsheet: 2023 Telehealth Policy Update

Center for Connected Health Policy

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan
- National policy tracking
- State policy tracking
- Webinars
- Email updates
- And more

<https://www.cchpca.org/>



CCHP is the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center

Founded in 2012, the Center for Connected Health Policy strives to improve health outcomes, care delivery, and cost effectiveness through telehealth. During 2012, they were designated as the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center because of their expertise in telehealth policy.

Legal Disclaimer

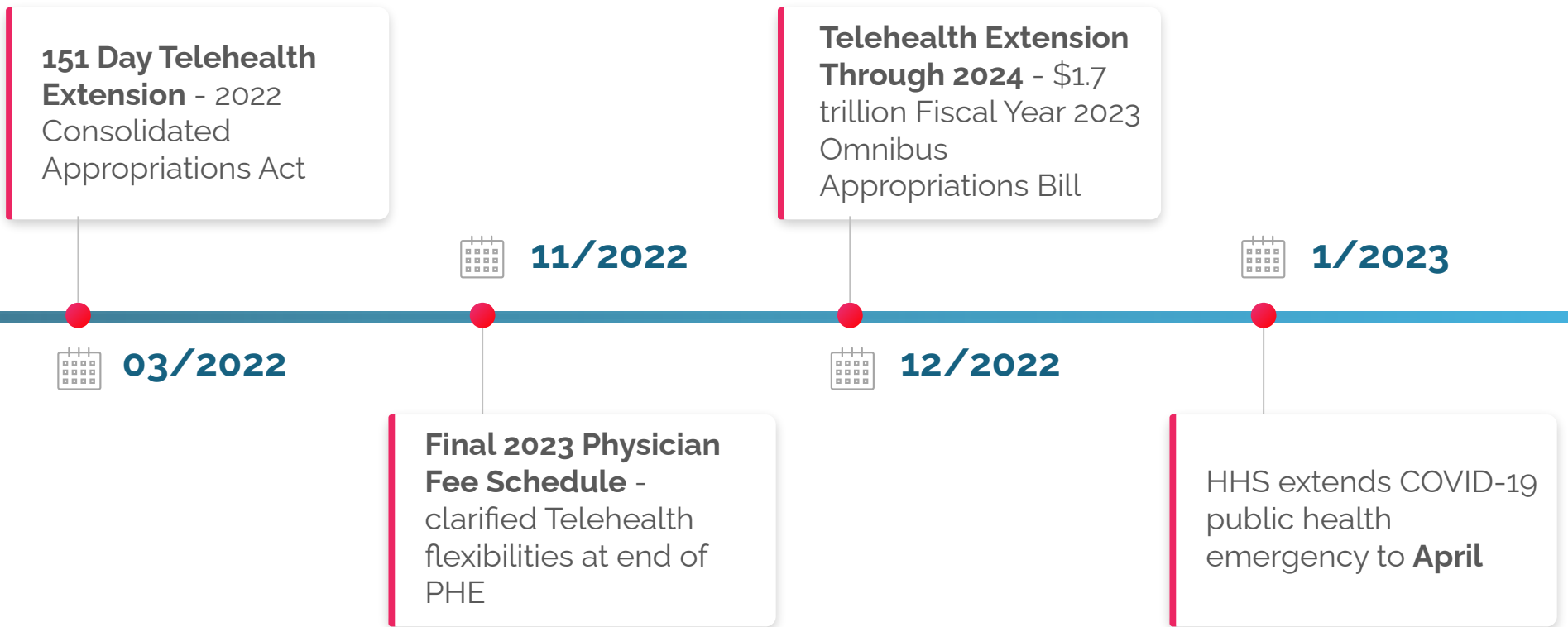


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Quick Factsheet: 2023 Telehealth Policy Update



2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act

On March 9th and 10th, 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (the Act), and on March 15, 2022, the President signed it into law. After the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE), certain telehealth flexibilities are extended for Medicare patients for 151 days.

Final 2023 Physician Fee Schedule

As of January 1, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that includes updates and policy changes for Medicare payments under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS).

For CY 2023, CMS finalized a number of policies related to Medicare telehealth services, including making several services temporarily available as telehealth services for the PHE available at least through CY 2023 so that the data can be collected to support the inclusion of these services as permanent additions to Medicare Telehealth Services.

Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

President Joe Biden signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (H.R. 2617) on Dec. 29, 2022, which included \$1.7 trillion in discretionary government funding for FY 2023. Medicare reimbursement flexibility for telehealth services first established during COVID-19 is extended through December 2024 under the legislation.

HHS extends COVID-19 PHE to April

Anticipated to conclude in 2023, HHS has extended COVID-19's public health emergency until April 11, 2023.

Quick Factsheet: 2023 Telehealth Policy Update

What is Permanent Already?



Medicare rural reimbursement

The patient must be located in a geographically rural area AND at an eligible originating site (usually not at home).



Medicare reimbursement for mental health telehealth services

In-person visits are required within six months of an initial telehealth visit, and every 12 months thereafter (with certain exceptions).



Medicare reimbursement to FQHCs and rural health clinics

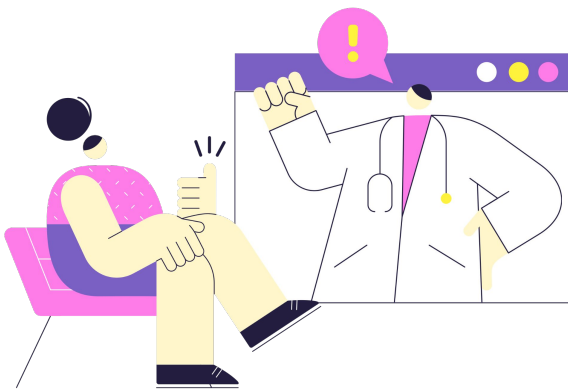
CMS has redefined a 'mental health visit' to now include encounters furnished through interactive, real-time telecommunications technology (which will include audio-only delivery in some cases) for a mental health disorder.

What Remains on a Temp. Basis Until Dec. 31, 2024?

- Medicare reimbursement for telehealth services provided to patients at **home**, aside from certain exceptions
- Expanded list of eligible providers, such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists and audiologists
- Audio-only telehealth for non-mental health visits
- Reimbursement of FQHCs and RHCs as distant site telehealth providers for non-mental health services
- Temporary telehealth codes not in Medicare's Categories 1, 2 or 3, extend for 151 days beyond the PHE
 - CMS likely to extend temp. codes through 2024
 - [List of Telehealth Services for Calendar Year 2023 \(ZIP\)](#) - Updated 11/02/2022

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Medicare's Categories 1, 2 or 3 Telehealth Services



1

Category 1

Similar to professional consultations, office visits, and/or office psychiatry services that are currently on the Medicare Telehealth Services List.

2

Category 2

Evidence of clinical benefit if provided as telehealth.

3

Category 3

Services that likely have a clinical benefit when furnished via telehealth, but lack sufficient evidence to justify permanent coverage.

Through the End of the PHE Calendar Year:

Medicare's Category 3 telehealth codes [[see CCHP's 2023 PFS factsheet](#)], will remain reimbursable through the end of the PHE year.

Virtual presence for direct supervision is available until the end of the calendar year in which the PHE ends





Quick Factsheet: 2023 Telehealth Policy Update

What Ends Immediately with the PHE?



The Use of non HIPAA Compliant Communication

In a recent FAQ document, OCR clarified that the enforcement discretion remains in effect until the Secretary of HHS declares the public health emergency over.



Rx Controlled Substances without an In-person Exam

To be prescribed a controlled substance via telehealth, the patient must be in a doctor's office or hospital registered with the DEA.

Mend Frictionless Telehealth



Fast

Engage any patient virtually, anywhere with the strongest telehealth connection.



Secure

Protect your patients, providers, and institutions with unparalleled security.



Easy

Mend offers beautifully simple telemedicine that you can join with a single click.



Scalable

Adopt a single solution that grows with your business.



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Final 2023 Physician Fee Schedule: Modifiers

95 Modifier & POS Code

Corresponding to where service would have been furnished in-person. Use until the later of the end of the year PHE ends or CY 2023.

02 Modifier

Services furnished in a facility as an originating site may be used & corresponding facility fee billed beginning the 152nd day after the end of the PHE

93 Modifier

Can be appended to claim lines for services using audio-only. Effective on and after January 1, 2023.

FQ Modifier

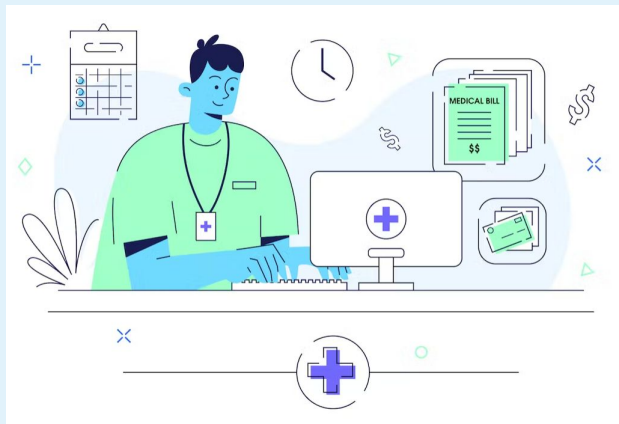
Must be used for allowable audio-only services (includes FQHCs, RHCs, and OTPs). Effective on and after January 1, 2023.

93 Modifier

When billing for eligible mental health services furnished via audio-only. Effective on and after January 1, 2023.

FR Modifier

By supervising practitioners on any applicable telehealth claim when direct supervision provided for service using real-time audio and video technology. Continued requirement.



Source: Final CY 2023 Physician Fee Schedule Fact Sheet November 2022

Final 2023 Physician Fee Schedule: Misc.

Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)

OTPs intake add-on code to be furnished by live video when billed for the initiation of treatment with buprenorphine.

G2252

Adoption of G2252 Virtual check-in for 11-20 minutes

Remote Therapeutic Monitoring

In July CMS proposed the creation of four new remote therapeutic monitoring HCPCS codes.

Physician Compare Finder

CMS will add a telehealth indicator to the Physician Compare Finder found on the Medicare website as is applicable and technically feasible

\$28.64

Originating site facility fee is \$28.64

Source: Final CY 2023 Physician Fee Schedule Fact Sheet November 2022

Virtual Presence for Direct Supervision

Ends at end of calendar year when PHE ends. However, CMS considering comments for future rulemaking on this issue.

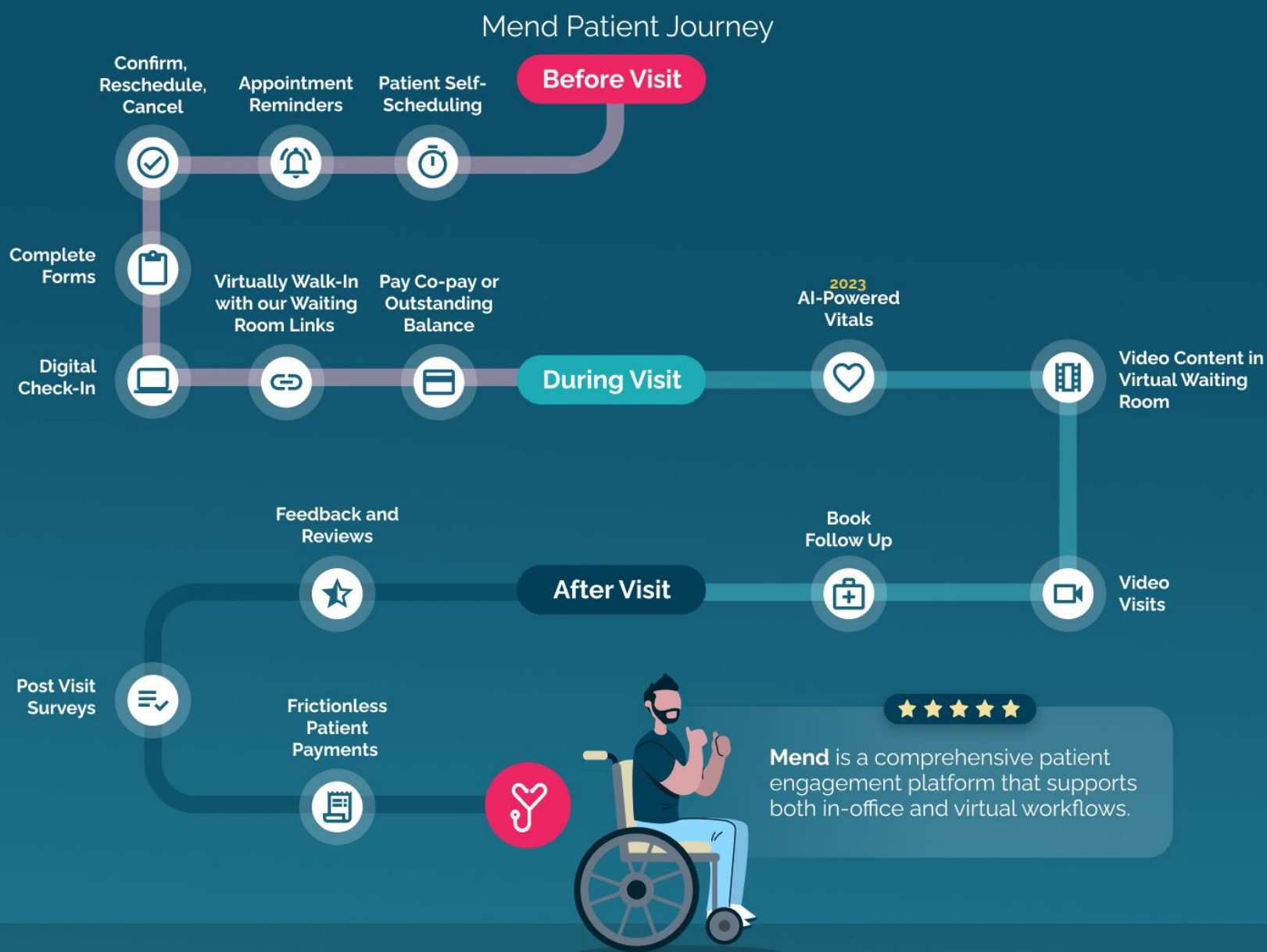


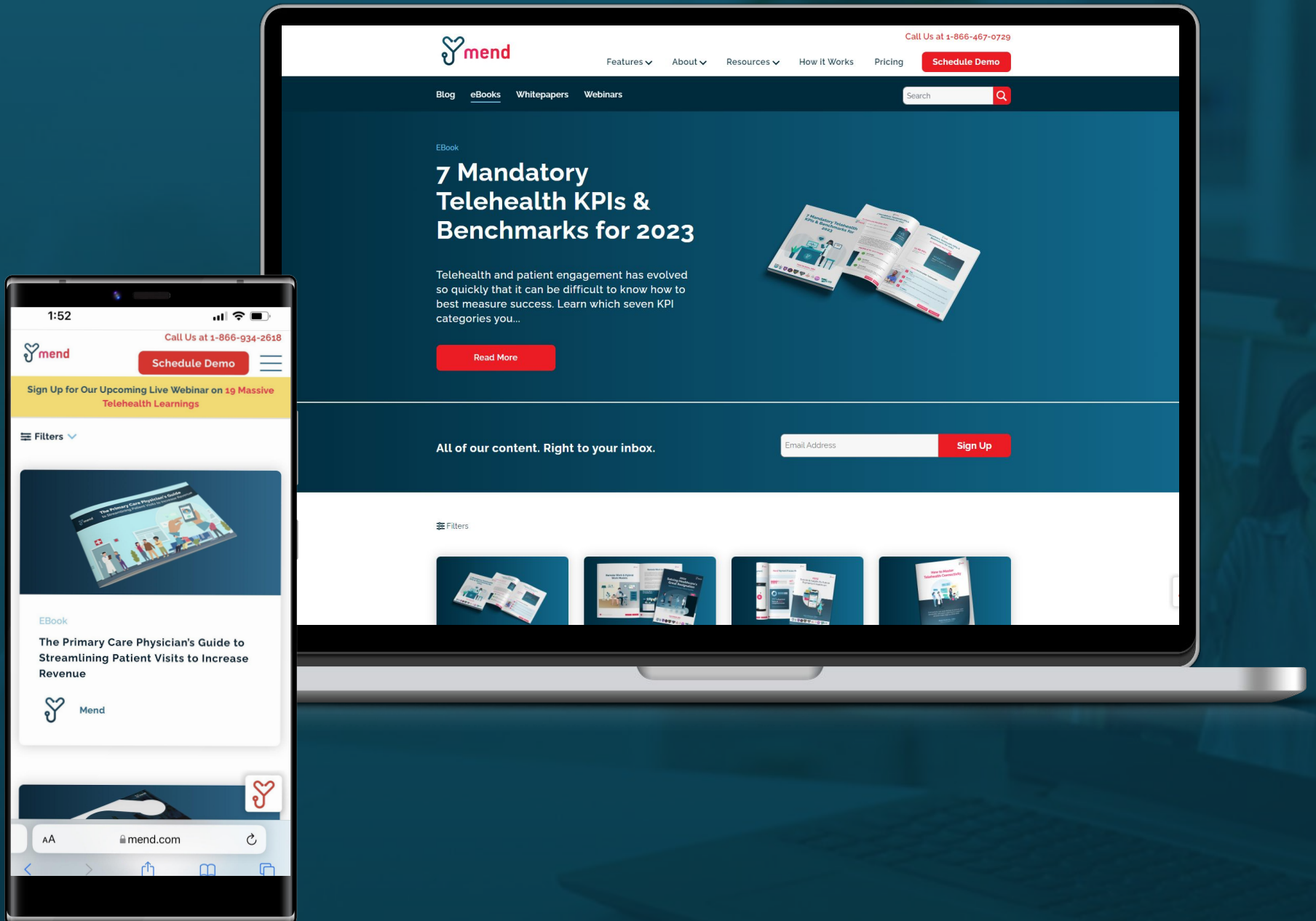
Automate Your Patient Engagement

If your organization is experiencing no-shows, scheduling appointments manually, making phone call reminders, handing out paper forms, or collecting payments manually then there is room for improvement to reduce the need for manual labor.

The healthcare organizations of the future will automate patient outreach and empower patients to complete the needed tasks before, during, or after an appointment.

How Can Automated Patient Engagement Help?





Mend.com has many other resources available that you may enjoy including other eBooks, blogs, white papers, webinars, podcasts, and more.

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Thank you

We're extremely grateful that you took the time to download and review our ebook. We hope you found the information valuable and that you share it with others. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out to me anytime. We would love to help you help more patients.

Thanks,



Matt McBride

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