

Stretch Your Knowledge of Telepractice: Service Delivery, Regulation, Reimbursement

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Definition

“Telepractice is the application of telecommunications technology to the delivery of speech-language pathology and audiology professional services at a distance by linking clinicians to client/patient or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation.”

Terms

Telespeech
Telerehabilitation
Teletherapy
Telehealth
Teleaudiology
Telepractice
Telemedicine

Use of Telepractice

Audiology Speech-Language Pathology



Benefits

- Schools
 - ▣ Provides access to services in rural areas
 - ▣ Decreases the requirement for audiologist or SLP to cover large territories
 - ▣ Saves the school system on travel costs and loss of time
 - ▣ Allows more flexibility in schedule
 - ▣ Assists with collaboration among staff
- Healthcare
 - ▣ Provides access to services in rural areas
 - ▣ Decreases the requirement for patients with decreased mobility to travel to a provider
 - ▣ Saves the patient money on travel and loss of work
 - ▣ Saves provider money if transportation costs are covered in policy

Practice Considerations

- Client/Student Selection
 - ▣ Physical and sensory
 - ▣ Cognitive, behavioral and motivational
 - ▣ Communication
 - ▣ Support Resources
- Facilitators
 - ▣ Verify institution or state regulations
 - ▣ Role of a facilitator

Practice Considerations

- Environmental Considerations and Practice Areas
- Code of Ethics
- Scope of Practice
- Regulations - State and federal
 - ▣ Encryption
 - ▣ VPN
 - ▣ Firewall applications

Practice Considerations

- Live Interactive
 - ▣ Participants interact in real time
 - ▣ Synchronous
 - Store and Forward
 - ▣ Electronic storage and privacy
 - ▣ Asynchronous
- Collect ➡ Store ➡ Transmit ➡ Interpret

Practice Considerations

- Applications
 - Videoconferencing
 - Platforms/Hardware/Software
 - ▣ Business Class
 - ▣ Software-Based
 - ▣ Public Domain
- Technology

Practice Considerations

- Connectivity
 - ▣ Network Speed – minimum bandwidth 384 Kbps
 - Quality of video and Audio clarity
 - ▣ Available bandwidth
 - Multiple users
 - ▣ Alternate communication options
 - Phone
 - ▣ Technology compatibility
 - ▣ Secure transmission

FERPA and HIPAA



U.S. Department of Education

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Federal law that protects the privacy of students' "education records"

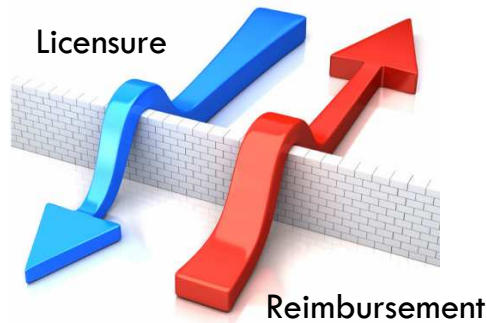


U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

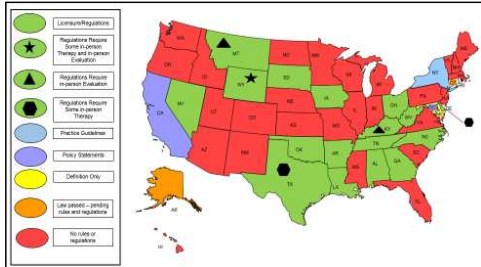
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

Federal law that protects the privacy and security of health information

Barriers



Licensure/Regulations



Licensure/Regulations

- Arkansas
 - Definition Only
 - Telepractice: means telespeech, teleaudiology, teleSLP, telehealth, or telerehabilitation when used separately or together; and “Telepractice service” means the application of telecommunication technology equivalent in quality to services delivered face-to-face to deliver speech-language pathology or audiology services, or both, at a distance for assessment, intervention or consultation, or both.

Licensure-Alternate Models

- Multi-state Compact
 - One license in the state the individual resides
 - No additional licenses to practice across state lines
 - State boards work together
- Licensure Endorsement
 - A streamlined application process
 - Available to individuals who are licensed in another state that has comparable requirements in the state they are applying

Licensure-Alternate Models

- Mutual Recognition
 - ▣ States recognize a license in another mutual recognized state and the individual can qualify for an equivalent type license
- Reciprocity
 - ▣ The state may grant a license when an individual has a license in another state. The individual must satisfy all licensing requirements mandated by state law, however, it makes it easier to apply for a license without having to complete more educational training/college coursework at the time of the application. Some states may have additional requirements but these can be met after the individual begins his/her job

Licensure-Alternate Models

- Limited License
 - ▣ Allows an individual to practice under limited provisions
 - ▣ For example – Allowing an individual with a license from another state to obtain a limited license to practice via telepractice only
- Registration
 - ▣ Requires an individual with a state license in another state to register in the state the patient is located. Allows state boards to monitor and keep track of individuals without the individual incurring as much cost as a regular license

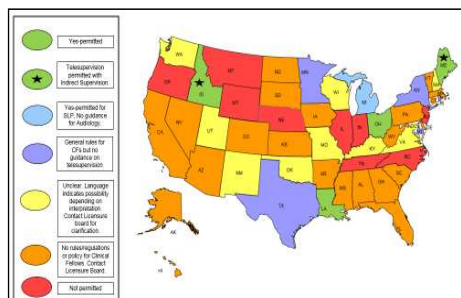
Telesupervision

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| □ Terminology | ▣ Direct Vs. Indirect |
| ▣ Real-time electronic | ▣ Real-time electronic |
| ▣ Telephonic or electronic | ▣ Telephonic or electronic |
| ▣ Interactive Television | ▣ Interactive Television |
| ▣ By communications device | ▣ By communications device |
| ▣ In-person | ▣ In-person |
| ▣ On the premises | ▣ On the premises |

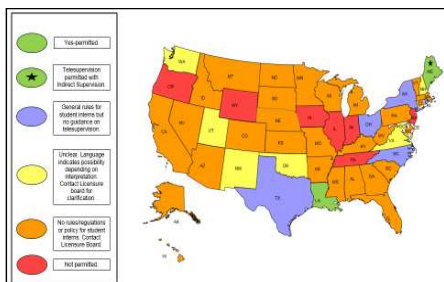
Telesupervision-Support Personnel



Telesupervision-Clinical Fellows



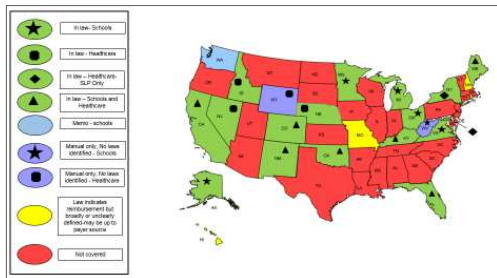
Telesupervision- Student Interns



Telesupervision

- Arkansas - SLPA
 - DIRECT SUPERVISION - Direct supervision means on-site, in-view observation and guidance by a speech-language pathologist while an assigned clinical activity is performed by a speech language pathology assistant or speech-language pathology aide.
 - INDIRECT SUPERVISION - Indirect supervision means those activities other than direct observation and guidance conducted by a speech-language pathologist that may include demonstration, record review, review and evaluation of audio or videotaped sessions, and/or [interactive television](#).

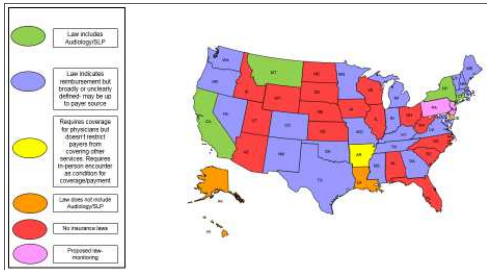
Medicaid Reimbursement Laws: Telepractice



Medicare Reimbursement: Telepractice



Insurance Reimbursement Laws: Telepractice



2017 Federal Legislation

- The *Medicare Telehealth Parity Act* (H.R. 2550), was reintroduced by Representatives Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Gregg Harper (R-MS) in May. It specifically identifies audiologists and SLPs and other non-physician practitioners to be reimbursed by Medicare for providing telehealth services. This is the most helpful legislation to audiologists and SLPs who would like to furnish services to Medicare beneficiaries via telehealth.
- The *CONNECT for Health Act* (S. 1016/H.R. 2556) was introduced in both the House and Senate in May. This is different than the previous legislation of the same name that was introduced in 2016. This version directs the Secretary of Health and Human Service to lift restrictions [commonly known as 1834(m) restrictions] on which providers and procedures can be reimbursed as telehealth services in the Medicare program, provided certain quality and cost-effective criteria can be met. This would allow consideration to reimburse audiologists and speech-language pathologists for telehealth services in Medicare.

Telepractice Resources

State Liaisons

Northeastern Region
 Susan Adams, Director, State Legislative & Regulatory Advocacy
sadams@asha.org
 301-296-5665



Southern Region
 Cheris Frailey, Director, State Education and Legislative Advocacy
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 301-296-5666



Central Region
 Janet Deppe, Director, State Advocacy
jdeppe@asha.org
 301-296-5668



Western Region
 Eileen Crowe, Director, State Association Relations
ecrowe@asha.org
 301-296-5667



Telepractice Resources

- State-by-State pages - licensure requirements, reimbursement laws/regulations and contacts
 - <http://www.asha.org/advocacy/state/>
- States - Telepractice regulations
 - <http://www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/State-Telepractice-Requirements/>

Telepractice Resources

Telepractice Portal

- Asha's code of Ethics
- Scope of Practice
- State Telepractice Requirements
- International Considerations
- FAQs on Reimbursement and Licensure
- Barriers
- Trends
- Client/Patient Selection
- Practice Areas
- Videoconferencing Equipment
- Connectivity Suggestions

<http://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Professional-Issues/Telepractice/>

Telepractice Resources

Questions About...

- SLP Practice Issues: Janet Brown, jbrown@asha.org 301-296-5679
- Medicaid Reimbursement: Laurie Alban-Havens, lalbanhavens@asha.org 301-296-5677
- Federal Bills on Telepractice: Sam Hewitt, shewitt@asha.org 202-624-5961

Telepractice Resources

- Sig 18
 - <http://www.asha.org/SIG/18/default/>
- ASHA Community
 - <http://community.asha.org/Home/>
- State Associations
- International Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Associations
 - http://www.asha.org/members/international/intl_assoc/

Telepractice Resources

- ATA – American Telemedicine Association
 - <http://www.americantelemed.org/>
- Regional Telehealth Resource Center
 - www.Telehealthresourcecenters.org
- Center for Connected Health Policy- Federally Designated National Telehealth Policy Resource Center
 - www.cchpca.org
- The National Telehealth Technology Assessment Resource Center
 - www.TelehealthTechnology.org
