

The Current State of Telepractice

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Disclosure—Janet Brown

- Financial
 - ASHA employee
- Non-financial
 - Ex officio to SIG 18 (Telepractice)
 - Staff liaison to ASHA committees writing documents on telepractice
 - ◆ Team leader on Practice Portal for telepractice



Disclosure—Patricia Rogers

- Financial
 - Executive Director, Chesapeake Children's Therapy Center
 - Provides services via telepractice
- Non-financial
 - none



Goals of Presentation

- Describe the current status of licensure and reimbursement associated with telepractice
- Present an example of how to prepare, present, and implement a telepractice program in a private practice model



How Telepractice Has Grown!

- 1990s—first internal discussions
- 2003—first committee to write ASHA documents
- 2010—Special Interest Group 18 (Telepractice) formed
- 2013—SIG has almost 1000 members





ASHA's Definition

• Telepractice is the application of telecommunications technology at a distance by linking clinician to client, or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation.

ASHA, 2005

Speech-Language Pathologists Providing Clinical Services via Telepractice: Position Statement



Quality Proviso

• The use of telepractice does not remove any existing responsibilities in delivering services... Therefore, the quality of services delivered via telepractice must be consistent with the quality of services delivered face-to-face. ASHA, 2005

Speech-Language Pathologists Providing Clinical Services via Telepractice: Position Statement



Terminology Makes a Difference

- Using telepractice as a means of direct service delivery
 - Telespeech, telehealth, telemedicine, telerehab, teletherapy
 - Typically via teleconferencing ("face-to-face," but not "in person"
- NOT distance education
- NOT distance supervision





Types of Telehealth

- Synchronous (real time)
- Asynchronous (store and forward)
 - Images, data
- Self-monitoring (not typically used in SLP)



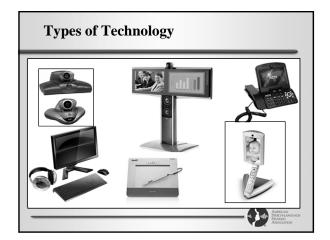




Technology Components

- Equipment
 - ◆ Hardware
 - Dedicated system, computer
 - Camera, monitor, microphone, multisite capability
 - ◆ Software
 - Peripheral devices
 - Document camera, videoendoscope







Data Collaboration Tools Courtesy of: David Brennan, National Rehabilitation Hospital

Licensure

- What is licensure for?
- Current status—full licensure in state where client resides
- ASHA model regulations: general and interstate practice



Problems with State Licensure for Telehealth

- Non-uniformity of state laws and regulations
 - Lack of agreement on terms, jurisdiction
- Non-portability
- Time and expense to providers
- Administrative redundancy
- Restrictive language
- Fears





• Medicare

Reimbursement--Medicaid

- Varies from state to state; schools/health care
- Need approved CPT codes to receive payment for using modifier
- California, Colorado, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia
- Check with your state association or Medicaid office first!



AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAG HEARING ASSOCIATION

Reimbursement--Private Insurance

Legislative Mandates

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- MaineMaryland

- Michigan
- Mississippi
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Texas
- Vermont
- Virginia



Reimbursement--Schools

- Largest area for reimbursed telepractice
- Within-district or contractor services
- Virtual schools—some providing special ed and related services
 - e.g., North Carolina, Idaho, Colorado, PA



Ensuring Quality

- Competency of providers
- Selection of clients
- Appropriateness of technology
- Identification of outcomes/data collection
- Monitoring client, caregiver, provider satisfaction



Provider Competency

Knowledge and Skills Needed by Speech-Language Pathologists Providing Clinical Services via Telepractice –ASHA, 2005

- Establishing connection, troubleshooting
- Calibration of equipment
- Basic principles of teleconferencing
- Selection of clients, materials
- Training facilitators



Other Telehealth Groups

- American Telemedicine Association
- Center for Telemedicine and e-Health
- Association of Telehealth Service Providers
 - Telemedicine Information Exchange
- Office for Advancement of Telehealth (HRSA)



