



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

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





Types of Technology




Internet Videoconferencing Software



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



State of Reimbursement for Telepractice

- 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!**



Reimbursement--Private Insurance

Legislative Mandates

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arizona• California• Colorado• Georgia• Hawaii• Kentucky• Louisiana• Maine• Maryland | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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



ASHA Practice Portal
www.asha.org/practice-portal/

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)





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