Telehealth: The New Age of Physical Therapist Engagement

2017 WPTA Spring Conference
April 20-21, 2017

Matt Elrod PT, DPT, MEd
Board-Certified Neurological Clinical Specialist
mattelrod@apta.org

Counsel of the APTA Board of Directors: Frontiers in Rehabilitation Science and Technology (FiRST)

FiRST Council Meeting

• FiRST Council meeting at NEXT
  Wednesday June 21st, 2017
  3:00 -4:00 PM EST
  Location to be determined
• APTA HUB: Frontiers in Research, Science and Technology (FiRST)
  – Open to all members (Non-eligible individuals can participate)
  – Can sign up for alerts
Institute of Medicine: "not a singular technology"

Personal Experience 2012

TELE-TIMELINES


TELEHEALTH HOD P06-14-07-07

Resolved, It is the position of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) that telehealth is an appropriate model of service delivery for the profession of physical therapy when provided in a manner consistent with association positions, standards, guidelines, policies, procedures, Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy, Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Practice, and APTA Telehealth Definitions and Guidelines; as well as federal, state, and local regulations.

Image Courtesy of Alan Lee, PT, DPT, PhD, CWS, GCS
Store and Forward

Consultation: Spoke and Hub

Supervision
Intervention

Key Resources

- APTA Website: [http://www.apta.org/Telehealth/](http://www.apta.org/Telehealth/)
- The Center for Connected Health Policy [http://cchpca.org](http://cchpca.org)

Research in Telehealth

- National Institute of Health [Clinical Trials US National Institute of Health](https://clinicaltrials.gov)

Opportunity & Challenges

• Laws and Regulations
• Payment
• Practice

Laws and Regulations

• PT Interstate Compact
• Majority of states do not have Laws and Regulations
What’s the PTLC?

- A legal contract between states
- A piece of legislation that must be adopted by state legislatures
- State-based solution to a national issue – no Federal or Congressional involvement!

What Will it Do?

- Create a new, faster way for PTs and PTAs in participating states to obtain a privilege to practice in another participating state
- Create a Commission to administer the compact, including promulgation of rules
- What it won’t do: Change your practice act or scope of practice
Access & Portability
Benefits of the Compact
- Consumers living near state borders
- Utilizing tele-practice technologies
- Residencies and Fellowships
- Specialists
- New Health care delivery models: Medical Homes, Accountable Care organizations, etc
- Traveling therapists
- Traveling groups: Teams and Performers
- Disasters
- Continuing education

PTLC Basics: State Requirements
• To participate in the PTLC, states must require:
  - Background checks
  - Continuing competence (amount, type doesn’t matter)
  - NPTE

PTLC Basics: Licensee Requirements
• To obtain a compact privilege, a PT or PTA must:
  - Hold an unencumbered license in a compact state
  - Have no adverse action against license or compact privilege in previous 2 years
  - Meet jurisprudence requirement of any state in which the licensee is seeking a compact privilege
  - Pay applicable fees
PTLC Implementation Process

10 States Pass
Compact Legislation
Compact Commission Forms
Commission Develops Rules, Sets Up Processes
Licensees Apply for Compact Privileges
Current Status: IL, AZ, MO, OR, TN, MS, MT, ND, NY, VT

Legislation and Regulation: Direct
An Analysis Of State Telehealth Laws And Regulations For Occupational Therapy And Physical Therapy, Inter J Telehealth: Spring 2014

- In laws and Regulations
  - Arkansas
  - Mississippi
  - New Hampshire
  - Oregon
  - Pennsylvania
  - Utah
- Additional requirements
  - Must obtain informed consent (Kentucky, North Dakota, Wyoming)
  - Must be present in state (Alaska)
  - Must identify in patient record that PT occurred via telehealth (Washington)

Wisconsin: Telemedicine/Telehealth Definition

"Telehealth" is a service provided from a remote location using a combination of interactive video, audio, and externally acquired images through a networking environment between an individual at an originating site and a provider at a remote location with the service being of sufficient audio and visual fidelity and clarity as to be functionally equivalent to face-to-face contact.

"Telehealth" does not include telephone conversations or Internet-based communications between providers or between providers and individuals.

Wisconsin Statute 94.45 (29w)
Laws and Regulations

• No reference found.

Payment

• Medicare- NO!!
• Medicaid- NO!!
• Private Payer- ?????

Medicare

• Physician
• Nurse practitioner
• Physician assistant
• Nurse midwife
• Clinical nurse specialist
• Clinical psychologist
• Clinical social worker with master's degree
• Registered dietitian
• Nutrition professional
Payment

Source: The Center for Connected Health Policy
http://cchpca.org

Recommendations for Private Payers

- Direct conversation with third-party payers
- Follow their directions
- Discuss submitting claims for telehealth services using Place of Service (POS)
  02: Telehealth
  The location where health services and health related services are provided or received, through telecommunication technology


Telehealth Checklist

• Informed consent
  – Verbal or Written
  – Pre-Screening
• Professional standards
  – Documentation
  – Licensure
  – Supervision
• Provider & End user acceptance
  – Chronic care model
  – Healthcare consumerism
  – Infrastructure: technology and workflow
  – Stakeholder collaboration

Documentation

• Time in Time Out
• What telehealth will be provided
• Patient agreement for tele service and recording
• Quality of connection & impact on treatment
• Any breaches
• People present/role
• Typical progress note

Example of secure system

www.vsee.com
.Key Takeaways

- Telehealth provides opportunity for access to care
- Practitioners should be in contact with PT boards & chapter
- Practitioners should communicate with payers
- All telehealth is not the same

.Key Resources

- APTA Website: [http://www.apta.org/Telehealth/](http://www.apta.org/Telehealth/)
- The Center for Connected Health Policy: [http://cchpca.org](http://cchpca.org)