Telepractice is the delivery of audiology and speech-language pathology services from a distance via telecommunications technology. Research and reports to date confirm that appropriately delivered telepractice services are comparable to those delivered face-to-face. That is, the services provided must be equivalent to the quality of services delivered face-to-face.

The services that can be administered by via telepractice include, but are not limited to:

**Audiology** – adult hearing screening, hearing aid and cochlear implant programming and counseling, and auditory brainstem response.

**Speech-Language Pathology** – real time, interactive assessment and treatment for beneficiaries with stroke, brain injury, cancer, Parkinson's, and other medical conditions, such as disorders in swallowing (dysphagia), speech (dysarthria or apraxia), language (aphasia), cognitive communication, and voice (dysphonia).

Telepractice expands Medicare beneficiaries’ access to audiology and speech-language pathology services. Telepractice can alleviate provider shortages by extending clinical services to remote, rural, or underserved populations. Telepractice also enhances the potential to provide improved access to specialists and to better serve culturally and linguistically diverse populations.

The use of telepractice services does not remove any existing responsibilities in delivering services, including adherence to the ASHA’s Code of Ethics and Scope of Practice, state and federal laws (i.e., licensure, HIPAA), and ASHA policy documents on professional practices. Therefore, the quality of services delivered via Telepractice must be consistent with the quality of services delivered face-to-face.

**Recognize Telepractice as an Appropriate Model of Service Delivery Under Medicare**

Support legislation in the 112th Congress that would recognize telepractice (telemedicine, telehealth, telespeech, teleaudiology) as an appropriate model of service delivery for the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology under the Medicare program.

**Special points of interest:**

- Research and reports date confirm that appropriately delivered telepractice services are comparable to those delivered face-to-face.
- Telepractice expands Medicare beneficiaries’ access to audiology and speech-language pathology services.
- The use of telepractice services does not remove any existing responsibilities in delivering services.
- Telepractice must be consistent with the quality of services delivered face-to-face.

**ASHA Contact:**

Ingrida Lusis
Director of Federal and Political Advocacy
202-624-5952
ilusis@asha.org