

Will My Health Plan Pay for Telepractice Services?

Check with your health plan first to make sure that the service is covered. Some plans may not be familiar with telepractice and may ask for more information. Contact ASHA at 800-638-8255 if you have questions.

What Should I Ask My Provider About Telepractice?

Here are some questions that you may ask your audiologist or SLP:

- Are you licensed to practice in my state?
- Are you trained in telepractice?
- If I don't like telepractice, can I change to in-person services?
- Will you communicate with my teachers and doctors?

You may be asked to sign a form to agree to have services delivered by telepractice.



American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Telepractice for Speech and Hearing Services

Providing Services at a Distance



For more information, contact:



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850
800-638-8255 • (TTY) 301-296-5650
actioncenter@asha.org • www.asha.org

"My daughter gets speech therapy at school through telepractice with an SLP. She loves it! She thinks her SLP is a celebrity and loves to talk to her 'on TV.' I think she tries even harder to impress her."

What Is Telepractice?

Telepractice connects you to an audiologist or speech-language pathologist (SLP) in another location. Your services are similar to those you would receive being in the same room with your provider. You see and talk to each other. Telepractice may also be called one of the following terms (among others):

- Telespeech
- Teleaudiology
- Teletherapy
- Telehealth
- Telemedicine



“My toddler has a cochlear implant. We connect with the audiologist in the nearest city to program it. The speech therapist connects with us by video on the computer. She watches us play together and gives me tips about how to help him.”

How Does Telepractice Work?

If you have a good Internet connection and a device with a speaker and camera, you or your family member could receive services in many locations, including those listed here:

- School
- Clinic
- Private home
- Office
- Hospital
- Nursing home

For audiology testing, you may go to a setting that has the necessary equipment. For some services, a trained helper will be there. You will have a phone number so you can call your audiologist or speech-language pathologist (SLP) if you have questions or problems during the session.

“My husband has Parkinson’s and got so tired driving to the nearest outpatient clinic. We both love having him get speech therapy at home. I can see how he is doing and practice with him.”

Is Telepractice as Effective as In-Person Services?

Telepractice has been used to evaluate and treat people of all ages. Researchers have found few differences between telepractice and in-person services. Most clients who receive telepractice say that they are very satisfied. But telepractice may not be for everyone. You should discuss with your audiologist or SLP whether you or your family member could benefit from telepractice.

Is Telepractice Approved?

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) supports telepractice because it gives people more ways to get audiology or speech-language pathology services. ASHA says that professionals need training or experience to deliver services at a distance.

