

TELEPRACTICE SERVICE DELIVERY REGULATIONS

.01 Definitions

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context otherwise requires:

B. Terms Defined:

1. "Board" means the State Board of Examiners for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.
2. "Patient" or "client" means a consumer of telepractice services.
3. "Telepractitioner" means an audiologist or speech-language pathologist who provides telepractice services.
4. "Telepractice Service" means the application of telecommunication technology to deliver speech-language pathology and/or audiology services at a distance for assessment, intervention and/or consultation.
5. "Telepractice" means telehealth, telespeech, teleSLP or teleaudiology when used separately or together.
6. "Consultation" means collaborating with a primary service provider to assist with evaluation or management.
7. "Clinician Site" means the site at which the speech-language pathologist or audiologist delivering the service is located at the time the service is provided via telecommunications.
8. "Client/Patient Site" means the location of the patient or client at the time the service is being delivered via telecommunications.
9. "Facilitator" means the individual at the client site who facilitates the telepractice service delivery at the direction of the audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

.02 Guidelines for Use of Telepractice

A. Services delivered via telecommunication technology must be equivalent to the quality of services delivered face-to-face, i.e. in-person.

B. Telepractice services must conform to professional standards including, but not limited to: Code of Ethics, scope of practice, professional policy documents and other relevant federal, state and institutional policies and requirements.

C. Telepractitioners must have the knowledge and skills to competently deliver services via telecommunication technology by virtue of education, training and experience.

D. The use of technology, e.g. equipment, connectivity, software, hardware and network compatibility, must be appropriate for the service being delivered and be able to address the unique needs of each client.

E. Telepractice service delivery includes the responsibility for calibration of clinical instruments in accordance with standard operating procedures and the manufacturer's specifications.

F. The telepractitioner is responsible for assessing the client's candidacy for telepractice including behavioral, physical and cognitive abilities to participate in services provided via telecommunications.

G. At a minimum, notification of telepractice services should be provided to the client, the guardian, the caregiver and the multi-disciplinary team, if appropriate. The notification could include but not be limited to: the right to refuse telepractice services, options for service delivery, and instructions on filing and resolving complaints.

H. Telepractitioners shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations governing the maintenance of client records, including client confidentiality requirements, regardless of the state where the records of any client within this state are maintained.

.03 Limitations of Telepractice Services

A. Telepractice services may not be provided by correspondence only, e.g., mail, email, faxes, although they may be adjuncts to telepractice.

B. Interstate and intrastate telepractice may be limited by the state, state licensure boards, federal or reimbursement laws and policies.

C. Audio and video quality should be sufficient to deliver services that are equivalent to in-person.

.04 Personnel Requirements

A. A provider of telespeech or teleaudiology should possess an unencumbered license to practice in the state from which the speech-language pathologist or audiologist provides telepractice services and the license must be comparable to its corresponding license in this state as determined by the Board.

B. Telepractitioners located out-of-state may provide services to persons in this state, providing they meet the requirements of Section ____, Interstate Practice of Telespeech and Teleaudiology.