



Support Continued Funding for Expanding Telehealth Rehabilitation Services

Legislative efforts enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic greatly expanded reimbursement for all modes of telehealth, including telerehabilitation services. The Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP) urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to 1) continue to cover telehealth services at the same rate as for in-person services; and 2) invest in technology that ensures high quality digital care that replicates in-person encounters as much as possible.

Increased Telerehabilitation Services Promotes Health Equity

While the initial expansion of telehealth services occurred in response to a public health emergency, continued support of the expansion of these services is both a health equity and climate initiative. People with disabilities often have mobility, sensory, and cognitive impairments that make travel to health care facilities or offices challenging. Access to high quality telerehabilitation services minimizes the disparity in care this population often faces and has been shown to improve health outcomes in persons with spinal cord injuries and strokes.

Expanding Telerehabilitation Offers Unique Interagency and Private Entity Collaboration Opportunities

Ongoing patient and medical provider education and research (equivalency of services, infrastructure, implementation, etc.) are needed to continue providing high quality telehealth care. There are leaders in both the private and public sectors that provide education and research on telehealth technologies and processes. Focused collaboration and partnership between these entities—as well as leveraging work being done in the Veterans Health Administration setting—can enhance patient and medical provider education and research to both improve and continue providing high quality telehealth care.

SUPPORT CONTINUED REIMBURSEMENT FOR TELEHEALTH/REHABILITATION SERVICES

- ✓ The AAP supports legislation that continues coverage of telehealth services at the same rate as in-person services.
- ✓ Support legislation that increases research funding for cost effectiveness, implementation strategies, and innovative technology to improve access to telehealth services.



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