

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND TELEHEALTH

Access to Physical Therapists During the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond

TELEHEALTH COVERAGE

Both US government and private payers have covered telehealth during the COVID-19 crisis in order to keep people active, healthy, and out of the overburdened health care system.

Continuation of telehealth coverage is important beyond the current limits set by emergency and public health crisis declarations.



BENEFITS OF TELEHEALTH COVERAGE

Seamless access to physical therapists prevents declines in health, including falls, fractures, deconditioning and future orthopedic surgeries.

Keeping patients healthy is a win-win that also stems future medical loss.

WHAT PAYERS SHOULD KNOW

- Keeping telehealth coverage in place during the "at-risk" COVID period makes sense for payers, providers & patients.
- There is strong evidence that aspects of physical therapy can be successfully delivered via telehealth options.
- Payers & providers can work together to gather outcomes & evidence of telehealth efficacy.
- Payers can choose to support physical therapist practices during this financial crisis in order to continue access.

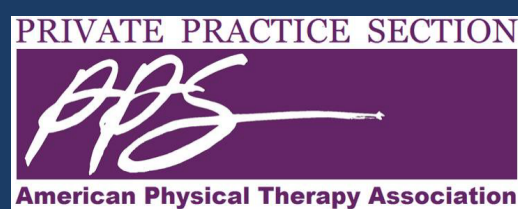


OPTIMAL TELEHEALTH COVERAGE



- Allows typical therapy CPT codes (like 97xxx series) excluding manual therapy and modalities
- PTs are explicitly listed as eligible providers
- Use Place of Service Code 02 depending on payer specifications
- Use corresponding and appropriate modifiers (-GT or -95)
- Payment equal to payment received for in-person treatment

THE MISSION OF THE PRIVATE PRACTICE SECTION IS TO CHAMPION THE SUCCESS OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST IN BUSINESS.



Read more at <https://ppsapta.org/index.cfm>.