Realizing Telehealth as a Powerful Tool in Delivering Physical Therapy in a Changing Healthcare Environment

Course description:
Telehealth is an emerging practice in many healthcare professions. The practice of physical therapy using telehealth technologies is becoming more realistic for many physical therapists in the United States pass parity laws that require insurance companies to pay for more healthcare services provided via telehealth and physical therapy boards and regulating bodies work to create new regulatory language that is inclusive of telehealth. This session will be presented in three mini-modules: 1) review basic terminology associated with telehealth, 2) an overview of regulatory and reimbursement issues, 3) Privacy and security and practical applications of telehealth technologies.

Course objectives:
Learners can expect to gain an understanding of:
1. Basic telehealth terminology.
2. What a parity law is and how it relates to physical therapists using telehealth.
3. Licensure portability and Licensure Compacts.
4. Early lessons in billing, coding and reimbursement of telehealth services.
5. Key uses of store and forward applications used in physical therapy practice to enhance patient care, and care coordination.
6. Key federal regulations governing electronic transmission of data and how they relate to appropriately selecting and implementing store and forward applications into physical therapy practice.
7. Case based applications that demonstrate HIPAA compliance and attention to privacy and security when selecting store and forward applications to be incorporated into physical therapy practice.
8. Case Based clinical scenarios that demonstrate different applications of TH technologies in physical therapy practice.

About the Presenter:
Christopher Peterson, PT, DPT, Cert. MDT is a clinical coordinator and physical therapist for Hartford Healthcare Rehabilitation Network in Connecticut and serves as an adjunct faculty member at American International College in Springfield, MA where he designed and currently teaches a module on telehealth. He recently published in the International Journal of Telerehabilitation on practical applications and privacy and security issues with store and forward apps used in occupational and physical therapy practice. Currently he serves as secretary for the American Telemedicine Association’s Telerehabilitation Special Interest Group.

Course References:

Internet Resources

APTA Resources
- APTA TH Toolkit
- APTA Practice Administration Webpage

Telerehabilitation Resources
- American Telerehabilitation Association Telerehabilitation SIG
- ASHA Telepractice Overview Resource
- Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC)
- International Journal of Telerehabilitation
FSBPT Model Regulatory Language

- FSBPT Model Practice Act
- http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/
- http://cchpca.org/mhealth-laws-and-regulations
- http://cchpca.org/health-information-technology
- http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/enforcement/audit/protocol.html

Additional

1. American Physical Therapy Association
2. American Telemedicine Association
13. Model Policy for the Appropriate Use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine Report of the State Medical Boards’ Appropriate Regulation of Telemedicine (SMART) Workgroup


