

Statement on Telerehabilitation

As defined by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), telerehabilitation is the “clinical application of consultative, preventative, diagnostic, and therapeutic services via two-way interactive telecommunication technology” (AOTA, 2005, p. 656).

The Occupational Therapy Section has seen an increase in the number of questions from practitioners on whether the Ohio Occupational Therapy Practice Act permits telerehabilitation. As stated in the AOTA Telerehabilitation Position Paper:

Practitioners using telerehabilitation methods must comply with licensure laws and other state legislation regulating the practice of occupational therapy in the state or states in which those services are *received* [emphasis added]. When telerehabilitation is used to provide individual client services (evaluation and intervention), the *practitioner must be licensed in the state in which the client receives those services* [emphasis added]. The provision of consultation to another practitioner or continuing education content (e.g., workshop or seminar) using this technology may or may not be addressed by individual state regulations, and it is recommended that practitioners using the technology in these ways investigate those regulations to ensure compliance (AOTA, 2005, p. 658).

The Occupational Therapy Section endorses the AOTA statement on state regulations for telerehabilitation. As a result, occupational therapy personnel must hold a valid Ohio license prior to providing occupational therapy services via telerehabilitation to clients physically located in Ohio.

Reference

American Occupational Therapy Association (2005). Telerehabilitation position paper. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 59(6), 656-660.