Telepractice: 20 Questions
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What Will I Learn? Learning Objectives
Define telepractice as a service delivery modality to provide speech and language services
Identify potential benefits in using telepractice as a service delivery modality
Identify potential challenges in using telepractice as a service delivery modality
Tele-what?

Telehealth
Telemedicine
Telepractice
Teletherapy
Connected health

What Does ASHA Say?

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
The application of telecommunications technology at a distance

Telepractice is defined as “the application of telecommunications technology to the delivery of speech-language pathology and audiology professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client/patient or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation” (ASHA, n.d.)

What is ASHA Special Interest Group 18?

Mission Statement
It is the mission of SIG 18 to provide education, leadership, and advocacy for issues in telepractice, telespeech, and teleaudiology.

Goals
1. To provide resources and education related to telespeech and teleaudiology.
2. To promote excellence in evidence-based clinical practice in telespeech and teleaudiology.
3. To promote the development and dissemination of research in telespeech and teleaudiology.

Why the Demand for Service?

Increase in availability of internet services in schools and homes
Social networking has increased interaction with healthcare providers
Ease of video options
Increased efficiency
Is There a Need?

- SLP shortages
- Rural areas are underserved
- Travel time & cost
- Supplement to school-based SLPs to assist with high caseloads

What Are the Benefits of Telepractice?

- Minimizes barriers to access therapy
- Minimizes travel time for patient and/or clinician
- Reduces costs
- Reduces delay in service time
Same and Different

You Do What?

How many of you have used FaceTime to call someone?
How many of you have used Google Hangout for a work meeting?
Has anyone used an online portal to access medical results?
Requested medication be faxed or sent electronically to a pharmacy?

What Equipment Do You Need As A Clinician?

- Desktop or laptop computer
- Direct line to Internet
- Webcam
- Headset with microphone
- Printer
- Scanner
- Phone
- E-mail

What Equipment Does the Client Need?

- Desktop or laptop computer
- Direct line to Internet
- Webcam
- Headset with microphone
- Printer
- Scanner (optional)
- Phone* (important for tech support)
- E-mail
Home office

What Skills Do You Need As A Clinician?

- Basic computer skills
- Troubleshooting skills
- Communication skills
- Patience
- Organization

What Materials Do You Use?

- Cards
- Board games
- Memory
- Videos
- Curriculum-based activities

PL has an extensive digital content library of activities or clinicians can upload their own materials

Example of PL Memory

“This study investigated the progress made by school-age children with speech sound impairments in side-by-side intervention compared with telepractice intervention. Fourteen children aged 6 through 10 years with identified speech sound disorders were randomly assigned to intervention delivered in a side-by-side or telepractice service delivery model. Children in both service delivery models made improvement in their speech sound production during the program. There were no significant differences between the two groups. The results of this study support the use of telepractice in the intervention of children's speech sound disorders.”

Can You Show Us the Data?


“No significant difference was found between the online and FTF total raw scores and scaled scores for each subtest. Weighted kappas revealed very good agreement on the individual items, total raw scores, scaled scores, core language score, and severity level. Intra- and interrater reliability were determined for a sample of online ratings, with intraclass correlation analysis revealing very good agreement on all measures.”

What About Data?

PresenceLearning clinicians have performed more than 6,000 online evaluations using commonly used assessments including:

GFTA-3, KLPA-3, Arizona-3, CELF-5, CELF-5 Screener, CELF-Metalinguistics, CASL2, CELF 4-Spanish, PPVT-4, EVT-2, SSI-4, EOVPVT, ROVPVT, TAPS-3

What About Testing?


“No significant difference was found between the online and FTF total raw scores and scaled scores for each subtest. Weighted kappas revealed very good agreement on the individual items, total raw scores, scaled scores, core language score, and severity level. Intra- and interrater reliability were determined for a sample of online ratings, with intraclass correlation analysis revealing very good agreement on all measures.”

http://videos.presencelearning.com/watch/GYKMjS71oJNLToEtsQWXEw
Who Helps The Student Log Into Therapy?

1:1 or 1: group primary support person (PSP)
Students who are independent can utilize computer assistance, media room staff, or school volunteers
Virtual students- parents are present as learning coaches

How Do You Participate In IEP Meetings?

Varies by school district
Team members may call into a conference line
Another option is for CCC members to attend in person and for SLP to attend virtually via online therapy room

What About Licensure?

Each state has its own laws (or not) for telepractice
Anyone providing speech-language pathology or audiology services to a resident of Indiana should be licensed by our state and knowledgeable about state guidelines.
*Point of origin and point of receipt of services

Follow the rules of your professional organizations and licensing boards

Can You Tell Us More?

ON-SITE SLP
ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency
State License
Teaching License/Certificate
Other credentials as required by school
*stay on top of rules & regulations

VIRTUAL SLP
ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency
State License
Teaching License/Certificate
Other credentials as required by school
*stay on top of rules & regulations
What Are The Challenges To Telepractice?

- Clients must have secure internet provider and equipment
- Quiet environment for provider and student
- Parent or support personnel are essential when working with young students
- Reluctance from school staff, administrators, parents
- Telepractice is not for every client

Are There Challenges as an SLP?

- Communication - clear communication is key
- Can be isolating compared to working in clinic or school setting
- Working from home requires boundaries

What Questions Should I Ask When Interviewing?

- What tech support is provided?
- What training is provided specific to telepractice? Continuing education opportunities?
- What opportunities are available in states where you are licensed?
- Will the company provide reimbursement or bonus for additional state licenses?
- Is there compensation for indirect therapy time?
What Does the Future Hold for Telepractice?

Telepractice can meet various needs (individual clients, groups, schools, rehab)
Telepractice models will continue to be an option in educational and medical settings
As the shortage of SLPs continues in rural areas, telepractice should be considered as an option

What About References?

ASHA Special Interest Group 18


More References?


