

## **TELEPRACTICE/THERAPY/HEALTH: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What does ASHA say about Telepractice/therapy/health?**

Overview, Key issues, Resources, and References:

[http://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589934956&section=Key\\_Issue\\_s](http://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589934956&section=Key_Issue_s)

### **What does the Washington State Board of Hearing and Speech say about telepractice/therapy/health?**

The laws and rules for Hearing and Speech Services (Hearing and Speech Services [RCW 18.35](#), Hearing and Speech [WAC 246-828](#), and Regulation of Health Professions—Uniform Disciplinary Act [RCW 18.130](#)) do not outline specific requirements for telehealth.

The Board has given guidance that all services must be provided by a speech-language pathologist licensed by the Department of Health in the state in which the patient resides. All services must be provided in accordance with the laws and rules referenced above, and the same standard or care must be met when providing teletherapy as it would in-person.

Telehealth can be used by an SLPA if the task is under indirect supervision. The Board is contemplating changes that would allow an IEP to be conducted via telehealth.

Interim permit holders can also treat through telehealth, but not exclusively. There is no specific time amount outlined by the Board.

Please contact the Washington State Board of Hearing and Speech for any additional questions or concerns with the contact information on the general [DOH Hearing and Speech webpage](#) .

### **What are Washington State Insurance Guidelines for telepractice/therapy/health?**

Washington state law already requires certain health plans to pay for telemedicine services that patients receive from home:

- [RCW 48.43.735](#) – Fully-insured health plans [A fully-insured health plan is a health plan that someone buys directly from an insurance company or from the Health Benefit Exchange, or a health plan that someone gets when they work for a relatively small (under 500 employees) employer. It does not include Medicare, Medicaid, or a large

employer health plan such as the Boeing, Microsoft or Starbucks' employee health plans.]

- [RCW 41.05.700](#) – Health plans for state employees

- [RCW 74.09.325](#) – Medicaid managed care plans

The state legislature passed a law in 2017, [Senate Bill 5436](#), that expands these laws to include other locations in addition to patients' homes. This change goes into effect on January 1, 2018.

Please contact the Washington State Insurance Commissioner for any additional questions or concerns through their main website <https://www.insurance.wa.gov/>

**Does Medicaid reimburse for telepractice/therapy/health services provided in Washington state?**

No, Medicaid does not pay for speech therapy via teletherapy.