



KPTA Telehealth/Telerehab Update

Dear Provider of Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant services in Kansas:

Many of you have been asking about Telehealth/Telerehab and Physical Therapy Services. We have obstacles that make it difficult for this type of delivery, but that is not to say that we are not working on clarifying every aspect of provisions of our services. Is it approved in our State Practice Act? How do we practice correct technique for delivering the services? How and if we will be paid?

Although not specifically mentioned in our Kansas Practice Act, legal counsel for the Kansas Board of Healing Arts and the Physical Therapy Advisory Council assured us that it was part of our practice, as it is with OTs and SLPs as long as the standard of care is commensurate with face to face services.

Telehealth by PT is accepted in all 50 states and already being provided by Kansas PTs/PTAs working for the VA in this state. While telehealth PT services are not reimbursable by third party payers in the Kansas Telemedicine Act enacted on January, 1, 2019, it is a cash based service that can be provided if it meets state and federal statutes and regulations. KPTA has advocated in the state legislature dating back to October of 2017 ([kpta.com/Members/LegislativeInitiatives](https://www.kpta.com/Members/LegislativeInitiatives)) on behalf of PTs and PTAs providing telehealth in Kansas. The KPTA also has delivered excellent programming on Telehealth in our Fall conference last year and our recent Spring conference. Our speaker was Janine

Gracy: jgracy@kumc.edu at the Center for

ConnectedHealthPolicy: <https://www.cchpca.org/about/about-cchp> . Please consider reaching out to Janine or the Center for Connected Health Policy regarding conduct/environment during electronic visits.

More recently and with urgency in these times of the Covid-19 public health crisis and its effect on providing quality physical therapist care and keeping our practices financially solvent, we have urged Governor Kelly to employ an executive order that would mandate Kansas insurance companies to pay for telehealth for Physical Therapy and for the payment to be equal to in-person care.

We have been considered essential healthcare personnel by the US Department of Homeland Security. https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA-Guidance-on-Essential-Critical-Infrastructure-Workers-1-20-508c.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1nrXpoPEIq40jdn4UH-k_TTeZK8-SAP4SyDtWc85xnicLOTjz1tN6O-4E But this is only guidance language, advisory in nature and is not nor should it be considered a federal directive or standard in and of itself.

Medicare has enacted a waiver that allows for PTs to conduct e-visits but again, there are several restrictions on the patient type and definitely on reimbursement. Finally, if you are a small business that is struggling right now, you may want to consider applying now for Disaster Loan Assistance <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/Index> . Be ready to be able to prove damages for February/March.

Grateful to serve as your Kansas Physical Therapy Association President
Camille Snyder PT, DPT
