Licensure and Reimbursement Issues in Telepractice

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Disclosure

• No financial relationship
• Non financial relationships
  • Ex officio of ASHA SIG 18: Telepractice
  • Member of executive committee of the Telerehab SIG of the American Telemedicine Association

Licensure Issues Affect Everyone

• 2003 HRSA (OAT) report on telemedicine licensure
• 2010 HRSA report on telehealth licensure
  • Grants to physicians, nurses
• National Council of State Boards of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
  • Recommendation: individuals must be licensed in the state where the client resides

Licensure Challenge

• The only constant is that…

NO TWO STATES ARE ALIKE!!

General licensure facts

• Licensure laws
  • Qualifications
  • Scope of practice
• Making changes
  • Statutory or regulatory

States with language about telehealth/telepractice

• Alabama
• California
• Delaware (not allowed)
• District of Columbia
• Georgia
• Iowa
• Kentucky
• Louisiana
• Maine
• Maryland
• North Carolina
• Ohio
• Oklahoma
• Oregon
• South Dakota
• Texas
APTA and Licensure

5. State licensing authorities should recognize and prepare for inter and intrastate provision of physical therapy via telehealth by incorporating provisions to regulate and monitor telehealth practitioners and provision of service. Such provisions should include an endorsement or reciprocity process that is reasonable and provides for a mechanism for a licensure exemption for practitioner-to-practitioner consultations regarding a specific patient/client.

ASHA

- Policy documents, articles
- Developed model language for state regulations, including interstate telepractice
- Actively trying to engage state Medicaid agencies that are interested in looking at telehealth
- www.asha.org/telepractice

Example: Maryland Personnel Requirements

- A provider of telehealth services who resides out of State and who provides services to Maryland residents shall be licensed by the Board.

http://dhmh.maryland.gov/board/ahs/
Regulation 10.41.06: Telehealth Communication

Reimbursement

- Contract services (schools)
- Medicaid (varies by state)
- Medicare (SLPs & Auds not eligible)

Private Insurance

- Case by case basis on request to insurer
- Some states mandate payment for approved services if provided via telepractice

- California
- Colorado
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Texas
- Virginia

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