Telerehabilitation: A Wide (Wild?) Angle View

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Dial back to.....

• No TV, e-mail, Internet or insurance.
• Not invented: web cams, laptop computers, or Smart Phones
• Millions were not a-twitter
• Books, but not Face Book
• Few professional organizations
• 53 years until ATA

Now, dial forward to.....

What will they say about the status of Telerehabilitation in 2011?

Tele-Terminology

• Inconsistent and evolving...
  – Telehealth
  – Telemedicine
  – Telerehabilitation
  – Telepractice
• Language reflected professional culture(s), reimbursement and state legislation

Definitional Elements Were Expanding

• Purposes
  – Assessment
  – Therapy
  – Consultation
  – Supervision
  – Work coaching
    • School coaching
  – Home accessibility modification
Definitional Element: Distance

Definitional Element: Location

Definitional Element: Temporal Considerations
- Synchronous
- Asynchronous

Societal Factors
- Stakeholder nomenclature reflected power-based relationships
  - Student
  - Client/Patient/Insured
  - Consumer
- Benefits to society were not fully envisioned and articulated
  - Prevention
  - Efficiencies/Cost savings

The Vision: Highly Centric
- Discipline centric
  - vs. team based/multi-disciplinary
- State centric
  - vs. regional or federal
  - vs. global perspectives
- Provider/insurer centric
  - vs. consumer and community

Tele-Technology
- Not yet fully integrated:
  - equipment
  - health records
  - natural environment ("real life")
- Evolving
- Effortful
- Not fully dependable
- Mysterious to many beginners...
Tele-Ethics

• A nascent area of study
  – under the radar
• Privacy issues!
  – much work to do

Positive Trends

• Evidence-based research increasing
  – Goal: to demonstrate equivalence
    • Emerging reports of superiority
  – Standards and Guidelines developments
    • ATA SIG White Paper
• Educational offerings increasing

Who Had the Most/Least Control in 2012?

a. State licensure boards
b. Professional organizations
c. Payers
d. Technologists/network providers
e. Clinicians
f. Consumers

Potential Areas of Growth

• Veterans with TBI
• Schools (traditional and cyber-)
• Private and concierge practices
• Team-based/medical home
• Naturalistic environs

What do we hope will they say about us in 50 years?

• They began to transcend their disciplines.
• They engaged consumers as partners.
• They did not over-invest in "ossifying" technologies. Instead, they asked for/envisioned better. They were creative.
• They were agile managers: of disruptive technologies and influencers. They made wise choices.
• They were pioneers. (The "retired" ASHA SIG 18 Telepractice)