TELEHEALTH HOD P06-14-07-07 [Position]

Whereas, Telehealth is the use of secure electronic communications to provide and deliver a host of health-related information and health care services, including but not limited to physical therapy-related information and services for patients and clients;

Whereas, Telehealth is used to enhance patient and client interactions, and encompasses a variety of health care and health promotion activities, including but not limited to education, advice, reminders, consultations, screenings, assessments, interventions, and monitoring of interventions;

Whereas, When possible and appropriate, telehealth is offered in conjunction with face-to-face communication, hands-on examination, and follow-up;

Whereas, Telehealth is used to overcome barriers of access to services caused by inaccessibility of specialists and/or subspecialists, unavailable resources, or impaired patient or client mobility;

Whereas, Telehealth offers the potential to provide physical therapist services where health disparities exist; and,

Whereas, The physical therapy provider documents in the record that the services provided occurred via telehealth and how informed consent is established;

Resolved, It is the position of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) that telehealth is an appropriate model of service delivery for the profession of physical therapy when provided in a manner consistent with association positions, standards, guidelines, policies, procedures, Standards of Practice for Physical Therapy, Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, the Guide to Physical Therapist Practice, and APTA Telehealth Definitions and Guidelines; as well as federal, state, and local regulations.

(Clinical Practice, ext. 8596)

Explanation of Reference Numbers:
BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18.