



Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

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What does the OTPTAT Board say about telehealth?

Telehealth is permitted under all practice acts for occupational therapy, physical therapy, athletic trainers, orthotics, prosthetics, and pedorthics. Additionally, the professional sections offer the following advice:

- Occupational Therapy

It is the position of the Ohio Occupational Therapy Section that an occupational therapy practitioner is required by Ohio Revised Code 4755.05 to hold a valid, current license in the State of Ohio to serve any clients located in Ohio. Therefore, out of state occupational therapy personnel must hold a valid Ohio license to treat clients in Ohio via telehealth.

If serving a client who is located in another state via telehealth while the practitioner is located in Ohio and has an Ohio license, the law of the state where the client is located prevails. The occupational therapy practitioner must consult with the other state as to the requirements to practice telehealth in that state.

A client's appropriateness to be treated via telehealth should be determined on a case-by-case basis, with selections based on occupational therapist judgment, client preference, technology availability, risks and benefits, and professional standards of care. An OT is responsible for all aspects of occupational therapy care provided to a client and should determine and document the technology used in the provision of occupational therapy. Additionally, the OT is responsible for ensuring the technological proficiency of those involved in the client's care.

Given that in the telehealth clinical setting the client and therapist are not in the same location and may not have established a prior in-person relationship, it is critical, at least initially, that the identities of the occupational therapy providers and client be verified, as well as informed consent be obtained.

The Section recommends that you contact the occupational therapy board in any state where the client resides to explore the requirements for practicing via telehealth in that state. In addition, the Section recommends that you review the American Occupational Therapy Association's *Position Paper: Telerehabilitation* (AOTA, 2018) for additional guidance on occupational therapy practice via telehealth.

- Physical Therapy

It is the position of the Physical Therapy section that according to Ohio Revised Code 4755.41, the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant must be licensed in the state in which the patient is located at the time of the physical therapy evaluation and treatment for the provision of telehealth services. In alternative, and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 4755.57, a physical therapy practitioner may also practice under a PT Compact privilege obtained from the Physical Therapy Compact (<http://www.ptcompact.org>). In addition, as with all practice settings, a physical therapy evaluation and the establishment of a physical therapy plan of care is required, including when the physical therapy service is provided via telehealth.

If serving a client who is located in another state via telehealth while the practitioner is located in Ohio and has an Ohio license, the law of the state where the client is located prevails. The physical therapy practitioner must consult with the other state as to the requirements to practice telehealth in that state.

A client's appropriateness to be treated via telehealth should be determined on a case-by-case basis, with selections based on physical therapist judgment, client preference, technology availability, risks and benefits, and professional standards of care. A PT is responsible for all aspects of physical therapy care provided to a client and should determine and document the technology used in the provision of physical therapy. Additionally, the PT is responsible for ensuring the technological proficiency of those involved in the client's care.

Given that in the telehealth clinical setting the client and therapist are not in the same location and may not have established a prior in-person relationship, it is critical, at least initially, that the identities of the physical therapy providers and client be verified, as well as informed consent be obtained.

- Athletic Training

It is the position of the Ohio Athletic Trainers Section that an athletic trainer is required by Ohio Revised Code 4755.62 to hold a valid, current license in the State of Ohio to serve any person located in Ohio. Therefore, out of state athletic training personnel must hold a valid Ohio license to treat clients in Ohio via telehealth.

If serving a client who is located in another state via telehealth while the practitioner is located in Ohio and has an Ohio license, the law of the state where the client is located prevails. The Section recommends that you contact the appropriate licensing board in any state where the client resides to explore the requirements for practicing athletic training via telehealth in that state. The Section also recommends that any athletic trainer who is providing telehealth services follow all established laws and rules related to non-telehealth athletic training such as consent, scope of practice, standard operating procedures, ethics, documentation, standard of care and referrals.

- Orthotics, Prosthetics, and Pedorthics

It is the position of the OTPTAT Board that an orthotics, prosthetics, or pedorthics practitioner is required by Ohio Revised Code 4779.02 to hold a valid, current license in the State of Ohio to serve any person located in Ohio. Therefore, out of state orthotics, prosthetics, and pedorthics personnel must hold a valid Ohio license to treat clients in Ohio via telehealth.

<https://www.abcop.org/individual-certification/Documents/Statement%20on%20Telehealth%20in%20Orthotics%20and%20Prosthetics.pdf>