The Benefits of Telepractice in Audiology

ASHA American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Audiology Telepractice Services are Feasible and Effective and Yield High Satisfaction, Treatment Adherence, and Follow-up Rates.

Audiology services delivered remotely are feasible and effective for...

Hearing Assessment

- Otoscopy[1, 2, 3, 4]
- Immittance testing[3, 5, 6]
- Audiometry[7, 8, 9, 10, 11]
- Pure-tone screenings[3, 4, 5, 12]
- Otoacoustic emissions[4, 5, 9, 13]
- Auditory brainstem response[13, 14, 15]
- Speech-in-noise testing[16]

Treatment and Management

- Hearing aid (HA) fitting[17, 18, 19, 20]
- HA programming and real-ear measurement[18, 21, 22, 23]
- Cochlear implant (CI) mapping[17, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31]
- Aural rehabilitation: Counseling and education[32, 33, 34]
- Tinnitus treatments[35, 36, 37]
- Ototoxic monitoring[38, 39, 40]

Individuals Across the Lifespan

- Newborns[13]
- Infants[14, 15]
- Children[3, 4, 5, 12, 24, 27, 28]
- Adults[7, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25]

People receiving audiology services via telepractice were highly satisfied and likely to follow their treatment plan.

Adherence To Management and Treatment Plans

- **80%–90%**[19, 23] used their HA(s) daily following remote fitting, with mean daily use times (**11 hours/day**)[22] being comparable to the mean daily use times of those who received in-person fittings.
- The use of remote HA fittings required fewer follow-up visits for experienced HA users.[41]
- Adherence to ototoxicity monitoring is significantly higher with remote testing protocols (**83.3%**) than with usual in-person protocols (**4.5%**).[38]

Improved Follow-Up Rates

- Rates of follow-up among children who failed initial hearing screenings were **11%–22%** higher with the implementation of telehealth than with in-person testing.[14, 42]

Satisfaction With Telepractice Services

- HA fittings provided via telepractice yielded a **91%**[19] satisfaction rate. **Eighty percent** of HA users indicated that remote and in-person follow-up consultations were of similar quality.[23]
- Satisfaction rates of **85%–100%**[25, 29, 43] were reported following remote CI programming, with **56%–100%**[27, 28, 29, 30, 44] of people saying that they were likely to use it again or recommend it to others.
- **97%–100%** of parents were satisfied with remote delivery of newborn hearing screening and follow-up services, and **90%** of parents reported that it was easier to attend a telepractice appointment than to attend an in-person one.[14, 15]

Additional telepractice benefits to patients

- Improved Access to Care[10, 42, 45, 46]
- Reduced Costs[26, 44]
- Decreased Travel[24, 44]
- Saved Time[24]

Learn more about telepractice and state-by-state requirements:
https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/professional-issues/telepractice/

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