



MEMORANDUM

TO: El Paso Health Providers

FROM: El Paso Health Plans

DATE: February 3, 2022

RE: Synchronous Audio-Visual PT, OT, and ST Evaluation and Treatment Telehealth Services

For the following PT, OT, and ST services, per standards of care, telehealth must be clinically appropriate, safe, and agreed to by the client receiving services or the legally authorized representative (LAR). Telehealth requires consent from the client or the client's parent or LAR. Verbal consent is permissible and should be documented in the client's medical record. Telehealth may require participation of a parent or caregiver to assist with the treatment. Providers must be able to defer to the needs of the person receiving services, allowing the mode of service delivery (audio-visual or in-person) to be accessible, person and family-centered, and primarily driven by the person in service's choice and not provider convenience. Texas Medicaid does not reimburse for PT, OT, or ST delivered via telephone (audio-only).

Synchronous Audio-Visual PT, OT, and ST Evaluation and Treatment
Effective February 1, 2022, HHSC authorizes providers to submit claims for reimbursement of the following services by synchronous audio-visual technology.

Evaluation, re-evaluation, and treatment for the following procedure codes may be reimbursed when delivered by telehealth as determined clinically appropriate by the rendering therapist and in compliance with each discipline's rules:

Description of Service	Procedure Codes
Physical Therapy Evaluation-Low, Moderate, and High Complexity	97161, 97162, 97163
Physical Therapy Evaluation-Re-evaluation	97164
Occupational Therapy Evaluation-Low, Moderate, and High Complexity	97165, 97166, 97167
Occupational Therapy Re-evaluation	97168
Therapeutic Exercises	97110
Neuromuscular Re-education	97112
Gait Training	97116
OT or PT Group Therapy	97150



MEMORANDUM

Therapeutic Exercises	97530
Neuromuscular Re-education	97112
Gait Training	97116
OT or PT Group Therapy	97150
Therapeutic Activities	97530
Self-care/Home Management Training	97530
Community Reintegration-use only with other therapeutic procedure codes	97537
Physical Performance Test or Measurement	97750
Speech Evaluations	92521, 92522, 92523, 92524, 92610
Speech Therapy Re-evaluation	S9152
Services for speech, language, voice, communication, auditory processing disorder treatment	92507
Speech Group Therapy	92508
Swallowing/Oral Dysfunction Treatment	92526

Note: Providers must use modifier 95 to indicate remote delivery. Providers are reminded to use the required modifiers GP, GO, and GN on all claims for physical, occupational, or speech therapy treatment. Treatment notes should indicate that remote delivery of the service is clinically appropriate per the rendering therapist’s professional judgement.

PT, OT, and ST In-Person Evaluation and Treatment

Specialized evaluations required for the provision of new complex rehabilitation technology, such as power mobility and adaptive seating systems or augmentative communication devices, require the physical presence of the speech-language pathologist, the occupational therapist, or physical therapist and should not be delivered by telehealth.

The following procedure codes will not be reimbursed if delivered by synchronous audio-visual or audio-only technology.

Description of Service	Procedure Codes
Wheelchair assessment and training	97542
Orthotic management and training, initial encounter	97760
Prosthetic training of wither both upper extremity and lower extremity; initial encounter	97761
Orthotic/prosthetic management and/or training, subsequent encounter	97761
Traction	97012



MEMORANDUM

Electrical stimulation (unattended)	97014
Vasopneumatic Device	97016
Paraffin Bath	97018
Whirlpool	97022
Diathermy	97024
Infrared	97026
Ultraviolet	97028
Electrical stimulation	97032
Iontophoresis	97033
Contrast Baths	97034
Ultrasound	97035
Hydrotherapy	97036
Ultrasound	97035
Aquatic Therapy	97113
Therapeutic Massage	97124
Manual Therapy	97140
Unlisted Rehabilitation Service	97799

Texas licensure rules for speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and physical therapy address the provision of telehealth by two-way audio-visual platforms. Telehealth therapy services must be delivered within the provision of current licensure requirements found in [Occupational Therapy Rules](#), [Physical Therapy Rules](#), and [Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Administrative Rules](#).

Therapy assistants may provide telehealth and receive supervision within limits outlined in each discipline's rules. Providers should refer to state practice rules and national guidelines regarding supervision requirements for each discipline.

Providers can refer to the [Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual](#), [Telecommunications Services Handbook](#) for additional information about Texas Medicaid telemedicine and telehealth benefits, and the [Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy Handbook](#) for more information about current PT, OT, and ST benefits.

If you have any questions regarding this communication please feel free to contact our Provider Relations Department at 915-532-3778.