



ILLINOIS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

A NEED FOR PERMANENT ILLINOIS LEGISLATION FOR FUTURE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TELEHEALTH PRACTICE

Below are talking points requesting support for permanent implementation to ensure continued access to quality and affordable care through telehealth practice as initiated under the [COVID-19 Executive Order No. 7 \(EO 2020-09, 3/19/20\)](#)

THE ILLINOIS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION (ILOTA):

The ILOTA is a member of a [coalition of IL healthcare providers](#) that is requesting Illinois telehealth reform legislation to ***ensure coverage parity and payment parity of telehealth services with in-person services*** based on the coalition's identified guiding principles as they apply to typical occupational therapy practices:

1. Patients shall not be required to prove a hardship or access barrier in order to receive telehealth services.
2. State regulated public and private health plans shall provide payment and coverage parity for telehealth services in the same manner as for in-person covered services.
3. State regulated public and private health plans shall not:
 - a. Negotiate different contract rates for telehealth and in-person services;
 - b. Require in-network providers to offer or provide telehealth services;
 - c. Require patients to use telehealth services instead of receiving in-person services; and
 - d. Place conditions, treatment limitations and requirements on telehealth such as utilization management criteria, documentation or recordkeeping that are more restrictive or stringently applied than those established for in-person services.

4. Providers shall deliver services within the scope of their license or certification, unencumbered by geographic or facility restrictions for any services delivered via telehealth.
5. Providers shall be permitted to provide distant site services as long as they are licensed, registered, certified, or authorized to provide those services in Illinois.
6. Providers, with their patients, shall determine which healthcare services and modes of virtual communication are most appropriate for delivery via telehealth.
7. Originating site locations, including the patient's home, in accordance with COVID-19 [Executive Order No. 7](#) (EO 2020-09, March 19, 2020) shall be permitted.
8. Providers and practitioners shall determine the appropriateness of specific sites and technology platforms/vendors for a telehealth encounter, as long as delivered services adhere to privacy laws.