

TELEHEALTH

AAPM&R supports the coverage of telehealth services and encourages members to utilize telehealth as an expansion of their practice. Following the implementation of regulatory and reimbursement flexibilities, telehealth has offered an innovative and safe way for members to care for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. AAPM&R continues to advocate for comprehensive coverage of telehealth. We have created resources for PM&R physicians and compiled a variety of resources from several organizations to assist you in your practice.



Telehealth Sessions

Take advantage of the sessions touching on telehealth, digital medicine and remote monitoring at the Annual Assembly this year:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

📅 3:30 pm-4:45 pm (ET)
Telemedicine in Cancer Rehabilitation: Practice, Data, Disparities

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

📅 8:00 am-9:15 am (ET)
Improving Mobility and Managing Risk for Fragile Patients via Telemedicine and Patient-reported Outcome Measurement

📅 10:00 am-11:15 am (ET)
Is There a Telemedicine Future in Neuromodulation

📅 10:00 am-11:15 am (ET)
Caring for Patient on Milrinone Therapy and/or Remote Heart Monitoring



Resources

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has quickly become a more prominent aspect of clinical practice in physiatry. This has raised a multitude of questions and discussions about how to integrate telehealth effectively and efficiently into practice, not only in the short-term but also in the future. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has also been identified as an area of need by members as well as in all practice areas of the **PM&R BOLD vision**. Because of this, the Academy is bringing together like-minded members to hear from those that have successfully implemented telehealth into their practice and those that have ran into barriers that are looking for guidance

Telehealth Innovation Workgroup

Beyond our efforts to support the integration and utilization of telehealth, the Academy continues to analyze groundbreaking opportunities for physiatry as technology evolves. The Telehealth Innovation Workgroup was convened to conduct an analysis of innovative opportunities such as virtual encounters, peripheral technologies, smart phone apps, artificial intelligence, and patient care algorithms.

AAPM&R Telehealth Interview Series

Todd Rowland, MD, FAAPMR, Chair of AAPM&R's Telehealth Innovation Workgroup, is leading an ongoing series regarding transformative care in telehealth for PM&R. To stay up to date with our ongoing series, check out the interviews listed below using the linked QR code:

Telehealth Advancement at Baylor and What That Means for PM&R in the Future: An Interview with Dr. James McDeavitt

Physiatrists Lead Remote Patient Monitoring into The Future: An Interview with Dr. Stephen Lewis

Advancing Musculoskeletal Care with New Reimbursement Codes for Physiatrists – Remote Therapeutic Monitoring Technology: An Interview with Dr. Marc Gruner

As a member benefit, you can also visit **AAPM&R's Online Learning Portal** for a podcast version of the full interviews.

AMA Telehealth Immersion Program

AAPM&R is proud to support the AMA Telehealth Immersion Program. Through a series of curated webinars, interactive peer-to-peer learning sessions, virtual discussions, bootcamps and resources on-demand, the program offers a comprehensive curriculum and enhanced experience navigating the world of telehealth alongside peers nationwide.

The AMA conducted a survey from November 1 - December 31, 2021, to assess the current landscape and use of telehealth among physicians and other healthcare professionals. The results aim to gather insights on the experiences of current and expected future use of telehealth to inform ongoing research and advocacy, resource development and continued support for physicians, practices, and health systems.

In addition, the AMA had compiled a specialized report of PM&R specific findings from the Telehealth Use Survey that will help aid in the development of Academy-led telehealth resources and advocacy efforts.

The 2021 AMA Telehealth Use Survey and PM&R Specialized Reports can be found using the linked QR code.

Advocacy

AAPM&R continues to monitor opportunities that push for permanent telehealth reform and comprehensive coverage. Last year, the Academy joined more than 30 patient and provider groups as a member of the Alliance for Connected Care Advisory Board. The goal of this new partnership is to advance advocacy strategies related to the value of telehealth. The Alliance has several key advocacy priorities that align with AAPM&R including expanding access to telehealth services by removing geographic and site limitations and ensuring appropriate reimbursement of providers for the delivery of telehealth.

AAPM&R has also participated in various sign on and comment letters, supporting coverage of telehealth during the public health emergency and beyond. These resources can be found on the Academy's Telehealth Advocacy web page using the linked QR code.

Reimbursement

AAPM&R has several resources and educational tools to help physiatrists, billers, coders, and office managers to keep up to date on the latest coding and billing changes regarding telehealth services during the public health emergency. Using the linked QR code, please visit the telehealth user guide, which offers details on Medicare guidelines including a review of waivers, reimbursable codes, and CMS-recommended modifiers.

Questions? Please contact us at healthpolicy@aapmr.org!