

# 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, NOVEMBER 11

-  3:30-4:30 pm (CT)  
**Changing with the Times – Strategies for Virtual Spasticity Assessments**

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

-  9:00-10:00 am (CT)  
**The Intersection of Telemedicine, Remote Monitoring, and Patient Reported Outcome Measures**
-  9:00-10:00 am (CT)  
**Integrating Advanced Technologies into Your Practice**
-  10:30-11:30 am (CT)  
**Technological Innovations in Chronic Pain Management – From Prescribed Digital Therapeutics to Virtual Reality... the Future is Here!**
-  2:30-3:30 pm (CT)  
**New Technologies in Cancer Rehabilitation Medicine**

### ON-DEMAND

-  **The Future of Rehabilitation Medicine: Peak Performance, Technology, Populations, and the Science of Treating the Whole Person**
-  **Proximal Hamstring Tendinopathy; Current Concepts and Emerging Technology**

## Education

### Telehealth Innovation Workgroup

The Telehealth Innovation Workgroup was convened by AAPM&R leadership at the beginning of 2021 to conduct an analysis of innovative opportunities in telehealth for physiatry to include, but not limited to, virtual encounters, peripheral technologies, smart phone apps, artificial intelligence, and patient care algorithms. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Telehealth Innovation Workgroup.

### Interviews and Podcasts

Todd Rowland, MD, FAAPMR, Chair of AAPM&R's Telehealth Innovation Workgroup, is leading a series of ongoing interviews regarding the growth of telemedicine in physiatry. The interviews can be found in previous issues of *The Physiatrist* and in future issues to come. Full interviews are also available as podcasts on the [Online Learning Portal](#). The interviews completed so far include:

-  [\*\*Telehealth Advancement at Baylor and What That Means for PM&R in the Future: An Interview with Dr. James McDevitt\*\*](#)
-  [\*\*Physiatrists Lead Remote Patient Monitoring into The Future: An Interview with Dr. Stephen Lewis\*\*](#)

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## **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. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## **Advocacy**

On June 17, AAPM&R completed our second virtual Day on Capitol Hill reaching more than 50 offices. One advocacy priority included expanding telehealth access after the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) to increase access to rehabilitation services for our patients with severe mobility limitations and other needs such as access to broadband and transportation. [Here](#) is our one-page letter on removing barriers to patient-centered care. AAPM&R has also participated in various sign on and comment letters, supporting coverage of telehealth during the public health emergency and beyond, including:

- ✓ [Letter to AHIP Requesting Expansion of Telemedicine Services](#)
- ✓ [Letter to BCBS Requesting Expansion of Telemedicine Services](#)
- ✓ [Letter to CMS Documenting Role of Telemedicine During the Public Health Emergency](#)
- ✓ [2021 MPFS Proposed Rule Comment Letter](#)
- ✓ [2022 MPFS Proposed Rule Comment Letter](#)
- ✓ [Letter to CMS Requesting Payment Parity for Audio-Only E/M Visits](#)
- ✓ [Letter to President Biden Regarding PM&R Priorities During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)

## **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. This guide offers details on Medicare guidelines including a review of waivers, reimbursable codes, and CMS-recommended modifiers.

### **Guide to Telehealth**

1. [Billing for Office Visits Provided by Telehealth](#)
2. [Expansion of Covered Services Provided Via Telehealth](#)
3. [Billing for Telephone Calls](#)
4. [Technology-Based Services](#)

