Subject: The Use of Telehealth/Telemedicine to Provide Audiology Services

Whereas, the Academy is vigilant in its efforts to advocate audiologic practices which are safe, effective and thoroughly validated, and

Whereas, audiology services may not be available in underserved locations, and

Whereas, audiologists may use telehealth/telemedicine technology to serve consumers in underserved locations, and

Whereas, audiology telehealth/telemedicine services are emerging but not widely validated, and

Whereas, audiology telehealth/telemedicine services must be the same quality as those dispensed by clinicians providing hearing health care services face-to-face (on-site) with patients, and

Whereas, professionals and other hospital support personnel must be systematically trained to provide high quality audiologic and hearing health care via telehealth/telemedicine technology, and

Whereas, complex technology solutions are frequently necessary to achieve adequate and secure telehealth/telemedicine services for network connectivity from rural point of service to regional health care centers, remote computing applications, and store and forward services, and

Whereas, the success of audiology telehealth/telemedicine services is ultimately dependent on the expertise of the practitioner,

RESOLVED, that diagnostic and rehabilitative audiology telehealth/telemedicine services should always be provided by, or supervised by, a qualified audiologist\(^1\), and

RESOLVED, that telehealth/telemedicine services should be primarily provided to individuals who have limited access to audiologists in their communities (e.g. homebound, etc.), and

RESOLVED, that audiology telehealth/telemedicine services should be validated before implementation to assure confidentiality and accuracy as well as to evaluate feasibility, particularly with difficult to test populations (newborns, infants, individuals with developmental disabilities, etc.) for which little or no validation of telehealth/telemedicine services currently exists.

\(^{1}\)Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations §440.110(c)(3) – Definition of Qualified Audiologist
References


