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## TELEHEALTH IN PHYSICAL THERAPY IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic demands that health care providers rethink how they deliver care in ways that reduce risk of further spreading infection. The information below can help you get a better sense of the issues surrounding physical therapy and telehealth, particularly related to the current viral outbreak.

Read more at:

<http://www.apta.org/PTinMotion/News/2020/3/16/TelehealthCOVID19/>

## Tell Congress to Waive Restrictions on the Use of Telehealth for Physical Therapy Services: Support the CONNECT for Health Act (H.R. 4923/S. 2741)

The COVID-19 pandemic demands that health care providers and payers reconsider how care is delivered to reduce the risk of further spreading infection. Access to telehealth has become of paramount importance to ensure the safety of patients and their physical therapy providers.

The American Physical Therapy Association supports waiving current restrictions that prevent physical therapists and other health care providers from delivering and billing for services provided via telehealth under Medicare. The Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act (H.R. 4932/S. 2741), is bipartisan legislation that would expand the use of telehealth services and ease restrictions on telehealth coverage under the Medicare program.

Currently, only a few provider groups are eligible under Medicare to furnish telehealth services to patients: physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse-midwives, clinical nurse specialists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, and registered dietitians or nutrition professionals.

The CONNECT for Health Act would, under certain parameters, lift some of the restrictions on telehealth services under the Medicare program, including who can provide telehealth and where these services can take place. Specifically, the bill would allow PTs and other providers to apply for a waiver allowing them to furnish telehealth services when treating Medicare beneficiaries as long as those services meet certain criteria, such as not limiting or denying coverage and reducing spending without sacrificing quality of care.

Please take a moment to email to your members of Congress urging them to include the CONNECT for Health Act in any future COVID-19 legislation.

<https://www.votervoice.net/APTA/campaigns/72525/respond>