

Utilization Efficacy Perceptions of Telepractice for Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and University Faculty and Administrators: A Qualified Delphi Study

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Purpose: To understand how barriers such as regulatory, lack of telepractice education, and technology are hindering the adoption of SLP telepractice with adult and geriatric patients

Theoretical Framework: Unified Theory of Acceptance and use of Technology (UTAUT)

- Developed by Venkatesh, Morris, Davis, and Davis (2003)
- Incorporated constructs from 8 different models
- Explains the use and acceptance of technology

Problem: Despite the demand for telepractice for adult and geriatric patients with communication disorders using face-to-face SLP online sessions, barriers are hindering the adoption of telepractice in both private practice and other clinical settings

- Medicare does not reimburse for telepractice sessions
 - o SLPs are not approved telehealth practitioners
- Licensing is required for each state.
- HIPAA has increased cost of doing business

Methodology: Qualitative Delphi

- 3 groups: SLPs, regulatory experts, and university SLP program administrators
- Multi-round
 - o Round 1: semistructured individual interviews
 - o Round 2: commenting on statements from Round 1
 - o Round 3: commenting and voting from Rounds 1-2
 - o Round 4: presentation

Analysis: Thematic Analysis

- CASDAQ: Atlas.Ti
- Currently analyzing Round 1

Results: Not finalized

- Reimbursement is biggest issue due to SLPs not being recognized as telehealth practitioners, as well as not allowing for private pay
- Interstate compact may be the solution to the licensing issues
- Better understanding and education is needed on HIPAA regulations
- Allowing for reimbursement may open the doors for technology to be used in telepractice such as LSVT Loud and Speak Out