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Telepsychology: Legal, Ethical & Regulatory **Considerations Inside and Outside of PSYPACT**

Presented by



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- For Janet:
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Agenda

- 1. An Introduction to Telehealth and Telepsychology
- 2. Legal / Regulatory Considerations for Telepsychology Providers
- 3. Understanding PSYPACT
 - i. What is PSYPACT (History, Benefits)?
 - ii. ASPPB / PSYPACT Commission Relationship iii. PSYPACT Commission
 - iv. PSYPACT Process
 - 4. Telehealth / Telepsychology in a Post-Pandemic World
- 5. Ethical Considerations
- 6. Q&A

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An Introduction to Telehealth and Telepsychology

What Is Telehealth? What Is Telemedicine? VARYING AND BROAD DEFINITIONS

Medicare	 Medicare Part B pays for covered telehealth services when such services are furnished by an "interactive telecommunications system," defined as "multimedia communications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permiting two-way, real-line interactive communication between the patient and distant site physician or practitioner," 42 C.F.R. § 410.78.
Veterans Health Administration	 "The wider application of care and case management principles to the delivery of health care services using health informatics, disease management and telehealth technologies to facilitate access to care and improve the health of designated individuals and populations"
Health Resources Services Administration	 "[T]he use of electronic information or telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration." 38 C.F.R. § 17.417(a)(4).
Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP)	 "[A] broad term that encompasses a variety of telecommunications technologies and tactics to provide health services from a distance a collection of means to enhance care and education delivery."
States	Alternate between the terms "telehealth" and "telemedicine" and sometimes use both So states + District of Columbia define one or both of these terms

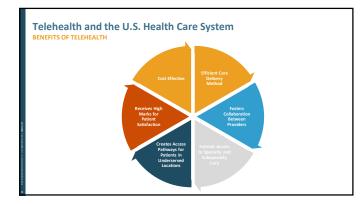


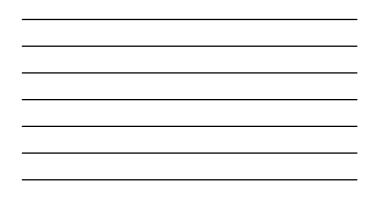


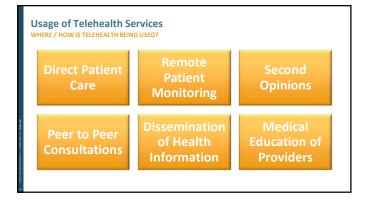
Ongoing transition from fee-for-service to pay-for-performance models of care delivery (e.g., outcomes, quality) Continued and increased use of integrated delivery models (e.g., ACOS), bundled payments, medical homes, and readmissions reduction initiatives

Continued growth in consumer demand for in-home care modalities (increasingly high during and post-PHE)

Availability, accessibility, and ubiquity of mobile technologies in health care









Telehealth Modality	Description
Real Time ("Synchronous")	Provider and patient communicate live via videoconferencing. Commonly used for providing, e.g., telebehavioral health, telehomecare, and telecardiology services. Enables remote consultations between patients and a variety of primary and specialty health care professionals.
Store & Forward ("Asynchronous")	Digital images, videos, audio, and/or clinical data are captured electronically and stored on a patient's computer / mobile device and then transmitted securely to a provider for later study or analysis. Commonly used for providing, e.g., teledermatology and telepathology services.
Remote Patient Monitoring	Patient use of systems that remotely capture and feed data / information from sensors and/or other monitoring devices / equipment to external monitoring centers so providers can monitor the patient menoty. Commonly from monitoring chronic health conditions, e.g., heart disease, COPD, diabetes, asthma.
Wearables	Electronic devices designed to be worn on a user's body. Such devices take many different forms, including smartwatches, fitness trackers, VR headsets, smart jewelry, web-enabled glasses, and Bluetooth headsets. Although "wearable" implies processing or communication capabilities, the sophistication among wearables varies dramatically.

Telehealth and the U.S. Health Care System BEFORE AND DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Pre-Pandemic

 • Steady—but <u>slow</u>—adoption by states

 • Regulatory guidance mostly from states with limited consistency, heavy focus on provision of telehealth services by physicians, while other health care professionals lacked guidance

 • 7 in 10 people were curious about telehealth but fewer than 1 in 10 people had actually tried its
- During COVID-19 Pandemic
- Surge in demand—and adoption—due to COVID-19 PHE Federal and state regulatory flexibilities helped to facilitate access and acceptance of telehealth as a means of care delivery Interstate licensures INDA

- IIIPA
 Payor coverage and reimbusement policies
 Payor coverage tade the health utilization for office visits and outpatient care was 78 times higher than it was in February 2020
 By Lay 2021, telehealth utilization stabilized at levels <u>38 times higher than pre-pandemic</u>, raping from 13 to 12 precent across all specialities Dramatic impact on patient care and provider practices

Telehealth and the U.S. Health Care System AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Since early 2021, telehealth use has declined steadily but remains
- Since early 2021, telehealth use has declined steadily but remains higher than pre-pandemic levels
 Congress extended certain pandemic-era flexibilities, particularly around Medicare coverage of telehealth, but these flexibilities currently are set to expire on September 30, 2025
 Post-pandemic, states have gradually stabilitied and refined their telehealth policies, making necessary adjustments based on evolvion cased.
- version portices in a second processing and the second process of the second proces of the second process of the second proces of th

- Growing trends in definition induce: Remote patient monitoring Personalized digital therapeutics Artificial intelligence Big data and analytics Telepharmacy Augmented reality / virtual reality ("AR/VR") Wearables Medical drones



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Telepsychology

THRIVING BUT ACCESS GAPS REMAIN

PHE led to a <u>telepsychology revolution</u>

- Prior to PHE, psychologists performed 7% of their clinical work through telepsychology
- During the PHE usage increased <u>12-fold</u> to nearly 86%, with 67% of psychologists conducting <u>all</u> their clinical work through telepsychology
 Post-PHE, psychologists projected that 34% of their clinical work would be conducted via telepsychology
- Telepsychology is an effective and efficient method for improving patients' lives
- Veterans: telepsychology found to be as effective in reducing PTSD symptoms as in-person interventions
 - Youth: telepsychology found to be effective in treating youth with a range of mental health disorders including ADHD, anxiety, depression, and eating disorders
- LGBTQUL: telepsychology found to significantly improve access in serving queer women and nonbinary individuals during and after the PHE
- But persistent access barriers continue
- · Rural psychologists and/or their patients have limited access to reliable high-speed Internet
- Unequal access to and shortages of psychologists across the country persist

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Legal / Regulatory Considerations for Telepsychology Providers

Telemental Health Post-PHE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL (MEDICARE)



- What's (Possibly) Here to Stay for Telemental Health Providers?
- FQHCs and Rural Health Clinics serving as a distant site providers for telemental health services
- Medicare beneficiaries receiving telemental health services in their homes
- No geographic restrictions for originating site for telemental health services
- Telemental health services delivered using audio-only communication platforms
- Rural Emergency Hospitals being eligible originating sites for telehealth
- Most flexibilities are set to expire by end of <u>September 2025</u>, but Congressional action may delay expiration.
- Alles As the Tennes and Thill Alles A with a star by the star
- What Are the Temporary Flexibilities for Telemental Health Providers?
 An in-person visit within 6 months of an initial telemental health service, and annually thereafter, is not required
- What's Under Consideration?
 Significant activity at the Congressional level . .

Source: KFF-What to Know About Medicare Coverage of Telehealth

Telemental Health Post-PHE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL (MEDICARE)



- Mid-Mar. 2025 passage of Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025
- Section 2207, "Extension of Certain Telehealth Flexibilities," permits the following through September 30, 2025
- Removes geographic requirements, expands originating sites for telehealth services (including patients' homes);
 Expands the list of practitioners who are eligible to furnish telehealth services, to include all practitioners who are eligible to bill Medicare for covered services, such as physical and occupational therapists, speech pathologists, audiologists, marriage and family therapists, and mental health services providers;
- Extends telehealth services to federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health clinics (RHCs), which
 may serve as distant site providers;
- Delays the Medicare in-person requirements for mental health services furnished through telehealth and telecommunications technology, including for FQHCs and RHCs;
- Allows for payment / furnishing of audio-only telehealth services;
- Extends use of telehealth to conduct face-to-face encounters prior to recertification of eligibility for hospice care; and
- Grants program instruction authority, meaning that the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section through program instruction or otherwise.

Telemental Health Post-PHE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL (MEDICARE)



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- Permanent Telehealth From Home Act (H.R. 1407)
 Introduced in House in Feb. 2025
- Proposes changes to Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate geographic limitations and expand eligible locations for accessing telehealth services under Medicare
 Removes specified constraints related to the end of the PHE period and allows the continuation of telehealth
- services beyond it
- Aims to make telehealth more accessible to Medicare recipients by establishing a permanent system that does not depend on the geographic location where the service is received
- Referred to House Committees on Energy and Commerce, as well as Ways and Means, for further consideration

Telemental Health Post-PHE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL (MEDICARE)

Preventing Medicare Telefraud Act (<u>H.R. 1785</u>)

- Introduced in House in Mar. 2025
- Proposes amendments to the Social Security Act aimed at enhancing oversight of and reducing fraudulent claims
 made to the Medicare program
- Would establish new requirements for high-cost durable medical equipment and laboratory tests to prevent telehealth fraud, including a requirement for in-person visits within six (6) months prior to ordering these highcost items via telehealth
- Would mandate audits for providers with a high volume of telehealth prescriptions to ensure compliance
- Would require submitting NPI numbers for separately billable telehealth services
- Referred to House Committees on Energy and Commerce, as well as Ways and Means, for further consideration

Telemental Health Post-PHE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL (MEDICARE)



- To Amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to Remove In-Person Requirements Under Medicare for Mental Health Services Furnished Through Telehealth and Telecommunications Technology (<u>H.R.</u> <u>1867</u>)
- Introduced in House in Mar. 2025
- Proposes amendments to the Social Security Act that would increase access to mental health care via telehealth
 Would eliminate in-person requirements for Medicare-covered mental health services, allowing these services to be provided through telehealth and telecommunications technology
- If enacted, changes would apply to eligible individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorders or mental health disorders, regardless of their geographic location, and would also cover services provided by rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers
- · Referred to House Committees on Energy and Commerce, as well as Ways and Means, for further consideration

Telemental Health Post-PHE



- In <u>September 2024</u>, several federal agencies published final rules amending regulations implementing the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) and adding new regulations implementing the nonquantitative treatment limitation (NQTL) comparative analyses requirements under MHPAEA.
- Final Rule on Requirements Related to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA)
- 89 Fed. Reg. 77586 (Sept. 23, 2024), effective Oct. 1, 2024
- Requires health plans and issues to collect and evaluate outcomes data, and to take reasonable action to address material differences between mental health and substance use disorder benefits and medical/surgical benefits. This includes evaluating standards related to network compositions.
- Final rule suggests that a "reasonable" action plan with respect to network composition data may include expanding the availability of telehealth arrangements to mitigate any overall mental health and substance use disorder provider shortages in a geographic area

Telemental Health Post-PHE

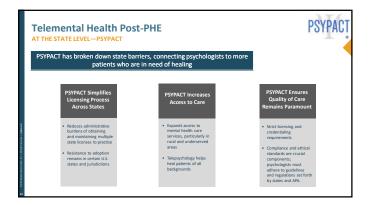


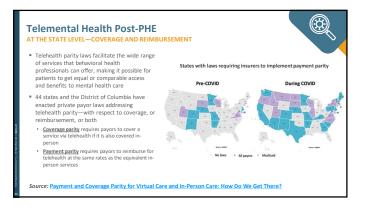
- During PHE-state professional licensure requirements modified, and in some cases waived entirely
- After PHE—states lifted temporary licensure flexibilities
- Presently—many states re-examining professional licensure policies
- Examples of recent state activity relating to out-of-state professional licensure exceptions:
- Arizona Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Board of Behavioral Health Examiners

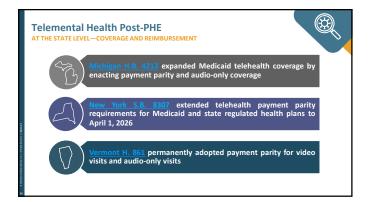
 Would add a provision regarding registration of out-of-state providers of telehealth services.

Maryland – H.B. 602

- Mandates State Board of Nursing to engage with nursing licensing boards in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia to explore reciprocity agreements for advanced practice nursing licenses and specialty certifications. Aims to enhance access to advanced practice registered nurses, improve licensure portability, and facilitate telehealth services across these jurisdictions.
- Legislation is set to take effect on July 1, 2025.







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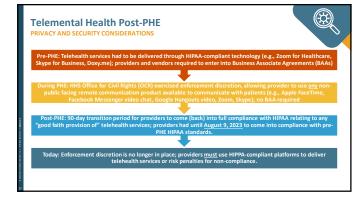
Telemental Health Post-PHE AT THE STATE LEVEL—ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIO-ONLY SERVICE DELIVERY



- Prior to the COVID-19 PHE, audio-only was not a commonly recognized or covered modality for delivering telehealth services
- Since the onset of the COVID-19 PHE, acceptance for audio-only services has increased, due to significant effects of pandemic and necessity for patients to reach their health care providers
- Currently, Medicaid programs in 43 states and the District of Columbia reimburse for audioonly services, although in some cases with limitations—e.g., coverage limited to provision of mental health services, or case management services

Telemental He PRIVACY AND SECURITY				
Gen	erally		Telehealth	Providers
Sharing data and management responsibility with other providers	Determining what should be maintained as part of a medical record	VS.	Developing and using HIPAA-compliant platforms to deliver telehealth services	Complying with privacy laws in multiple states (where patients located)
Breach notification (verifying breaches)	Training and education	vs.	Data transmission security considerations	Entering into BAAs with technical providers (non- Covered Entities) supporting provision of telehealth services
			Managing presence of non- clinical personnel (i.e., non- Covered Entities) supporting provision of telehealth services	Incorporating telehealth- specific risks into compliance programs







Telemental Health Post-PHE ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE **Civil Actior** Actio Criminal

Telemental Health Post-PHE FORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE—OIG'S JULY 2022 SPECIAL FRAUD ALERT

- Provides information for practitioners to help identify potentially "suspect" arrangements with telemedicine companies
- OIG encourages practitioners to use heightened scrutiny and exercise caution before entering
- into arrangements with telemedicine companies Includes an illustrative list of "suspect characteristics" related to provider arrangements with telemedicine companies that,
- taken together or separately, could suggest an arrangement presents a heightened risk of fraud and abuse
- Read the full Special Fraud Alert <u>here</u>





Legal and Regulatory Issues for Telehealth Providers ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE—OIG'S APRIL 2023 TOOLKIT

Toolkit: Analyzing Telehealth Claims to Assess Program Integrity Risks

Organization of Health and Human Sensors Office of Inspector General

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Provides information on methods to analyze telehealth claims to identify program integrity risks associated with those services.

Data analysis measures to apply:

- Data analysis measures to apply: 1. Billing televisih services at highest most expensive level for a high proportion of services. 2. Billing high-argen number of hours of telehealth services for high number of days, in a year 8. Billing telehealth services for high number of patients 5. Billing multiple health plans or programs for the services are telehealth service for high proportion of services

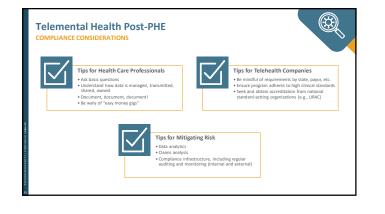
- same telenearus accus services Billing for telehealth service and then ordering medical equipment for high percentage of
- patients Billing for both a telehealth service and a facility fee for most visits



- Key takeaways highlighted in toolkit: Beneficiaries in urban areas, as well as dually eligible, Hispanic, younger, and female beneficiaries, more likely than others to use telehealth in Medicare
 - others to use telehealth in Medicare More than 28 million Medicare beneficiaries used telehealth during the first year of the pandemic, more than 2 out of every 5 Medicare beneficiaries 84% of Medicare beneficiaries received telehealth services only from provides with whom they had an established relationship All programs experienced dramatic increases in the use of felehealth. Ofis dentified several program integrity risks services that were similar across these programs.

rograms

Telemental Health Post-PHE RCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE—OIG'S MAY 2023 AUDIT Between Mar. 2020 and Feb. 2021, Medicare Part B Department of Health and Human Services paid \$1 billion for psychotherapy services, including OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL telehealth services OIG's audit found that providers did not meet MEDICARE IMPROPERLY PAID PROVIDERS FOR SOME PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICES, INCLUDING THOSE PROVIDED VIA TELEHEALTH, DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY Medicare requirements and guidance when billing for some psychotherapy services, including services provided via telehealth OIG estimated of the \$1 billion Medicare paid for psychotherapy services, providers received \$580 million in improper payments for services that did not comply with Medicare requirements—including \$348 million for telehealth services Christi A. Grass A Ney 2011 • OIG scheduled to publish an updated report in 2025 Read the full Audit report <u>here</u>



Telemental Health Post-PHE WHAT CHALLENGES PERSIST?



- Licensure—So many regulations! Will states make efforts to coordinate and help providers navigate? • Coverage and Reimbursement—Will payors remain engaged?
- Priorities should include: Creating better pathways to interstate care
- Promoting geographic neutrality
- · Encouraging value-based reimbursement models
- · Focusing on delivery to underserved communities



So, What is an Interstate Compact?

• What it is:

- It is a body politic
- It is an instrumentality of the state governments which join the compact
- It has rulemaking authority, and its rules have the effect of law in the member states It is, therefore, a multi-state governmental rulemaking body

- **PSYPAC**
- What it is not:
- It is not a nonprofit corporation
- · It is not a private "membership" organization
- It is not a professional association

Facts About Interstate Compacts

PSYPACT

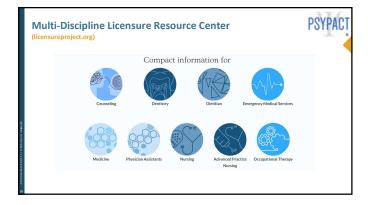
- Simple, versatile, and proven tool
- Effective means to address common problems
- Contract between states
- Responds to national priorities with one voice
- Retains collective state sovereignty over issues belonging to the states

 Assists states in developing and enforcing standards while providing a structure that can evolve to meet new and increased demands as needed.

Is There More to Know About Compacts?

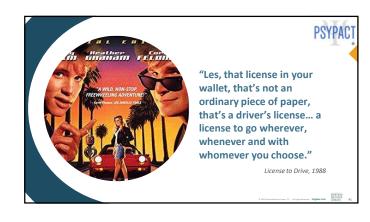
PSYPACT

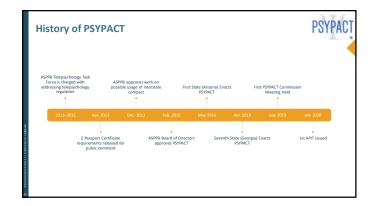
- Over 250 active compacts
- Each state is a member of at least one compact
- Typically, each state has been 20 to 40 compacts
- Compacts used for:
- Borders and land / water administration
- TransportationOther
- Occupational Licensure Compacts now make up <u>15%</u> of all compacts
- Professions with Interstate Compacts for Occupational Licensure (<u>www.licensureproject.org</u>)

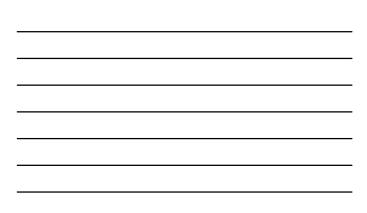










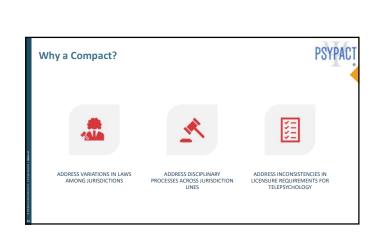


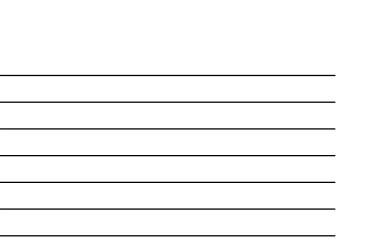
What is **PSYPACT**?

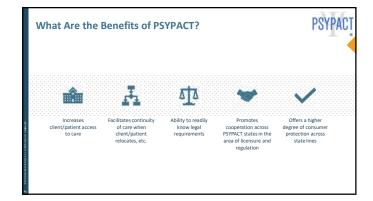
- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
- Interstate Compact
- Designed to regulate:
- Telepsychology
- Temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology

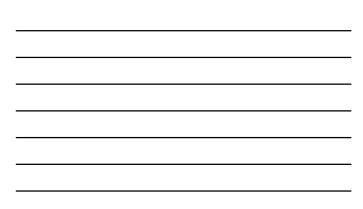
Focuses on psychology and psychologists











What Was the PSYPACT Starting Point?

PSYPACT

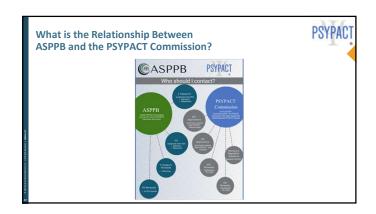
PSYPACT became operational when seven states enacted PSYPACT into law.

The Commission, the governing body of PSYPACT, was formed. As new states enact PSYPACT into law, they join the Commission.

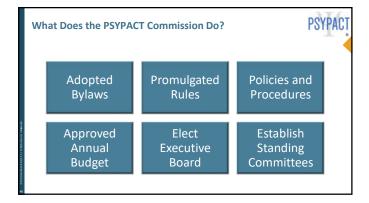
Each PSYPACT-participating state has one representative.

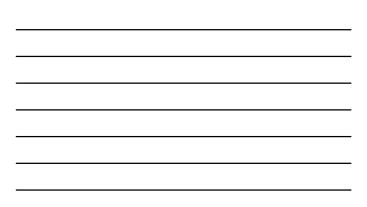
Bylaws and Rules need to be created by Commission.

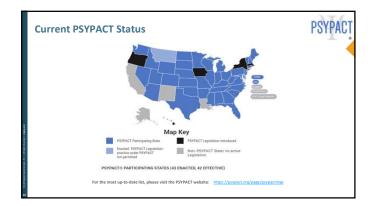
PSYPACT states communicate and exchange information including verification of licensure and disciplinary sanctions.













What PSYPACT Terms Are Important to Know?

Telepsychology
 The provision of psychological services using telecommunication

Home State

- The state where the psychologist is licensed
- Receiving State
 The state where the client/patient is physically located when the services are delivered

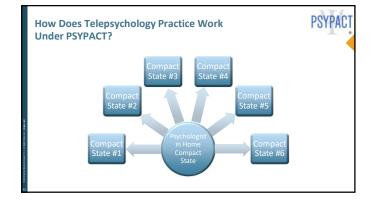
Distant State

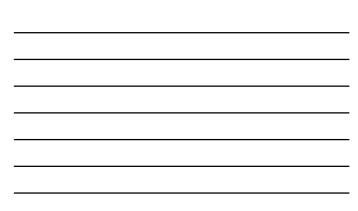
 The Compact State where the psychologist is <u>physically</u> present (not through use of telecommunications technologies) to provide temporary in-person, face-to-face psychological services

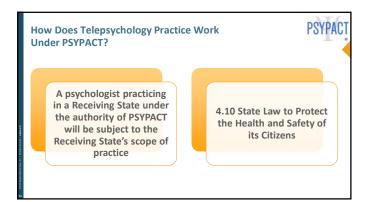
aterjurisdictional

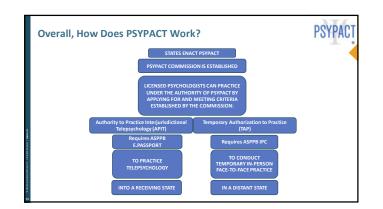
PSYPACT

- Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology
 A licensed psychologist's authority to practice telepsychology within the limits authorized under PSYPACT
- Temporary Authorization to Practice
 A licensed psychologist's authority to conduct temporary in-person, face-to-face practice within the limits authorized under PSYPACT

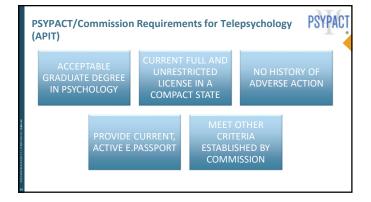






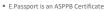








Does PSYPACT Manage the E.Passport and its Requirements?



- Commission has agreement with ASPPB to provide services regarding vetting of E.Passport
- E.Passport requirements include:
- Meet educational standards-doctoral degree from an APA/CPA or Joint Designated program
- Possess current, full, and unrestricted license to practice psychology in a Home State which is a Compact State
 Passing score on EPPP
- No history of adverse action
- Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended practice and work experience and provide a release of
 information to allow for primary source verification
- Meet other criteria as defined by Rules of the Commission
- Be held to Guidelines for the Practice of Telepsychology



Does PSYPACT Manage the IPC and its Requirements?

PSYPAC

PSYPACT

- IPC is an ASPPB Certificate
- Commission has agreement with ASPPB to provide services regarding vetting of IPC
- IPC requirements include:
- · Meet educational standards-doctoral degree from an APA/CPA or Joint Designated Program
- Possess a current, full, and unrestricted license to practice psychology in a Home State which is a Compact State
 Passing score on EPPP
- No history of adverse action
- Provide attestations in regard to areas of intended practice and work experience and provide a release of
 information to allow for primary source verification
- · Meet other criteria as defined by the Rules of the Commission

Exemptions to E.Passport / IPC Requirements

Education

- Within 13 months of the time a degree was conferred by the American Psychological Association, the Canadian Psychological Association, or designated as a psycholog program by the joint Designation Committee of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and the National Register of Health Service Psychologist.
- National Register of Health Service Psychologists. A Applicatis who have been (Eccenced prior to January 1, 1985 and have continuously held alicense (active or inactive) to practice psychology at the independent level in one or more ASPR member jurisdictions, based on a doctoral degree in psychology from a regionally accredited institution, are deemed to have met the educational requirements for the E Passport and/or IPS

The E-Massport and/or IPC. Psychologists who have been continuously licensed (active or inactive) for 15 years to practice psychology at the independent level in one or more ASPPB member jurisdictions based on a doctoral degree in psychology conferred prior to January 1,2000 from a regionally accredited institution may use the <u>Certificate of Professional</u> <u>Qualification(CPQ)</u> to meet the educational requirements of the E-Passport and/or IPC.

PSYPACT

PSYPACT

 Exam EXAM Applicants who have been licensed <u>prior</u> to <u>Januar</u> <u>1</u>, <u>1985</u>, and have continuously held a license (active or inactive) to practice psychology at the independent level in one or more ASPPB member jurisdictions, based on a doctoral degree in psychology from a regionally accredited institution, are deemed to have met the educational requirements for the E.Passport and/or IPC.

For applicants who <u>took the EPPP prior</u> to 2001, the passing score is the jurisdictional passing score on which the doctoral-level license is based.

How to Apply to Practice Under PSYPACT WHAT DO I NEED

- In order to practice telepsychology under the authority of PSYPACT, you will need to obtain two PSYPACT related credentials: ASPPB E.Passport <u>AND</u>

will be started

- Authority to Practice Interjurisdictional Telepsychology (APIT) granted from the PSYPACT Commission You must first apply for and obtain an ASPPB E.Passport before your PSYPACT required APIT application
- You cannot practice under PSYPACT until you have obtained your APIT

How to Apply to Practice Under PSYPACT DOES PSYPACT MAKE SENSE FINANCIALLY FOR ME?

EPers.

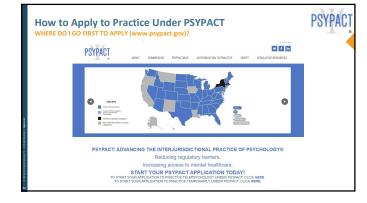
- Application: \$440 for E.Passport/APIT. \$240 for IPC/TAP • Renewal: \$120 for E.Passport/APIT, \$70 for IPC/TAP
- Psychology Board Licensing Fees (www.asppbcentre.org):
- Average \$346 Initial Application Fee
- Average \$315 License Renewal Fee



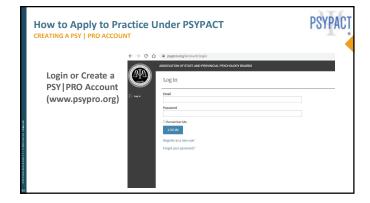
How to Apply to Practice Under PSYPACT OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER – DISADVANTAGES

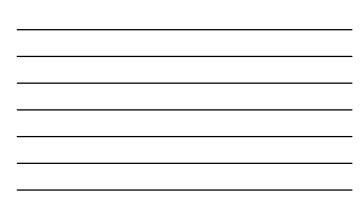
- Some problems may be less appropriately treated via telepsychology
- Some clients may not adapt well to telepsychology
- Crisis intervention might be compromised
- Limited view of non-verbal cues











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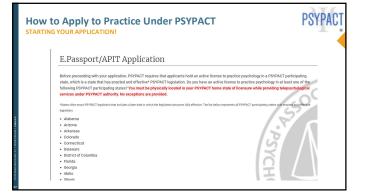
How to Apply to Practice Under PSYPACT IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE IN THE PSY | PRO APPLICATION PROCESS



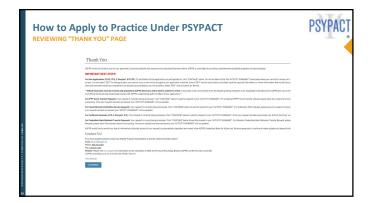
 Applicants <u>must</u> have their transcripts sent to ASPPB, and transcripts must be received and uploaded before applicants will be able to submit their applications for review Electronically send transcripts to: transcripts@asppb.org

- Mail transcripts to ASPPB, P. O. Box 849 Tyrone, GA 30290
 For schools that have closed, contact Parchment at <u>https://www.parchment.com/order/my-credentials/</u>
- Applicants <u>must</u> have three (3) hours of training relevant to the use of technology in psychology for the E.Passport at the time of application

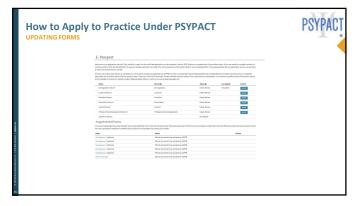
How to Apply to Practice Under PSYPACT REVIEW PSY PRO APPLICATION INFORMATION AND CLICK "NEXT"	PSYPACT
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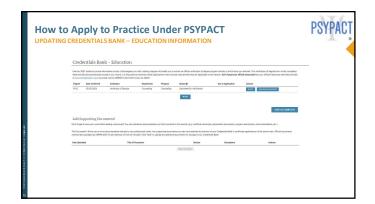
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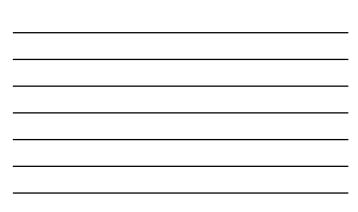


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How to Apply to Practice Under PSYPACT SUBMITTING E.PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

- You will not be able to officially submit your E.Passport application until we have received and uploaded an official copy of your transcripts to your E.Passport application.
- Send transcripts to:
- Send transcripts electronically to: transcripts@asppb.org
- Mail transcripts to ASPPB, P. O. Box 849, Tyrone, GA 30290
 For schools that have closed, contact Parchment
- For schools that have closed, contact Parchment at <u>https://www.parchment.com/order/mycredentials/</u>
- You will receive an email when your transcripts have been uploaded to your application.

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IMPORTANT! NEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENT!

□ * I acknowledge that I successfully completed three (3) hours of training relevant to the use of technology in psychology before applying for the E.Passport.

How to Apply to Practice Under PSYPACT APPLICATION APPROVALTIMELINE

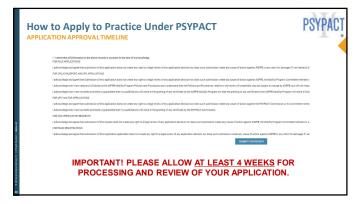


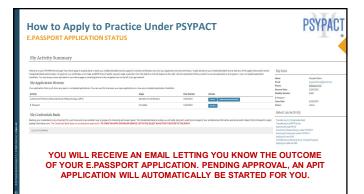
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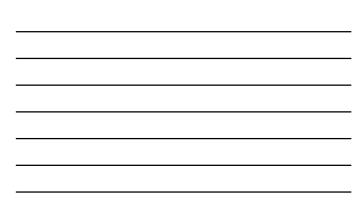
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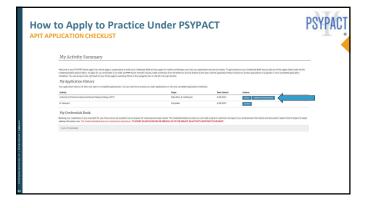
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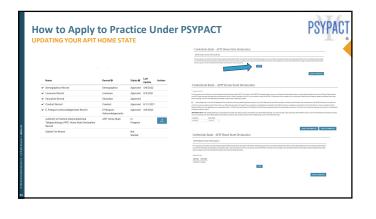
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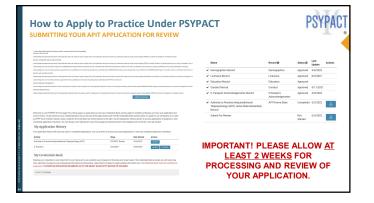


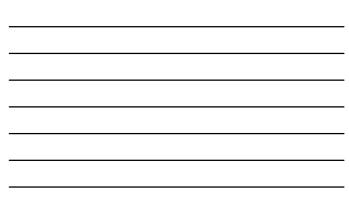






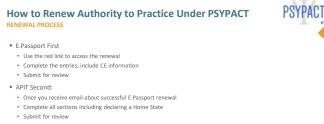






How to Apply to Practice Under PSYPACT YOUR PSY PRO DASHBOARD AFTER APIT IS ISSUED					PSYPA
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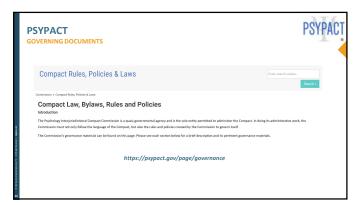
How to Renew Authority to Practice Under PSYPACT IS CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED?



- The ASPPB E.Passport requires 3 hours of continuing professional development and/or continuing
 education relevant to the use of technology in psychology
- Areas may include: Academic Courses
- Approved Sponsor Continuing Education
- Self-directed learning (e.g., reading, videos, must involve an unsponsored activity)

 A completed verification form provided by ASPPB must be completed.
- Specialized technology training

 A completed verification form provided by ASPPB must be completed or a completed certification form must be provideds



PSYPACT

GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

Rules

- Rule 4 Compact Privileges to Practice Telepsychology
 o 4.10 State Law to Protect the Health and Safety of its Citizens
 o 4.13 Authorization Validity
- Rule 5 Compact Temporary Authorization to Practice
 o 5.10 State Law to Protect the Health and Safety of its Citizens
 o 5.13 Authorization Validity
- Rule 6 Conditions of Telepsychology Practice into a Receiving State
- Policies
- Policy 2.4 Notification of Change in Home State
- Policy 2.6 Guidelines for Advertising PSYPsACT Credentials



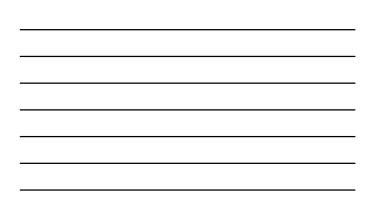


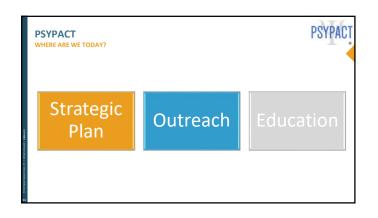
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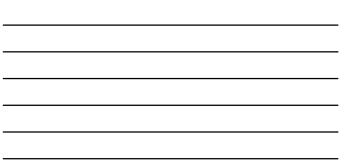
- Virtual representation that an individual has been granted an authorization to practice by the PSYPACT Commission.
- Can be shared by Authorization Holders on social media, email signatures, and websites
- Assist Authorization Holders in properly identifying themselves as PSYPACT Authorization Holders
- Are verifiable and have built in security measures making them more difficult to replicate
- Comes in an email from <u>info@psypact.org</u>
- Issued at application approval and upon renewal
 Only active Authorization Holders will be issued a digital badge





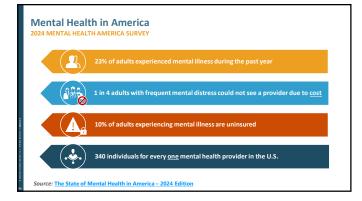






BECKER GREEN PSYPACT

> Telehealth / Telepsychology in a Post-Pandemic World





Is There Still a Use Case for Telemental Health Services?



- According to Harvard Medical School policy experts:
 Pandemic-era rules that promoted telemedicine should be made permanent to protect gains in quality of care and greater access for millions of patients
- Making the rules permanent should be done in a way that does not jeopardize in-person practices
- Enhanced telemedicine services have led to higher quality of care and better access and only a modest increase in spending
- Patient demand and evolving tools for remote health care require additional changes, including tweaks to interstate regulations

Source: Telemedicine Can Change Care for the Better — With the Right Rules

Is There Still a Use Case for Telemental Health Services?



 University of Michigan's Institute for Healthcare Policy and innovation has concluded—with respect to outpatient utilization—that while mental health is a high driver of telehealth dinot cause a rise in total post-pandemic E&M visits among Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries when compared to pre-pandemic levels (orthopedic surgery, for example, has low telehealth use).

Example, has low teelhealti Use).
Immediately following the Mar. 2025 passage and signing of the Continuing Resolution, both the Center for Connected Health Policy and the National Telehealth Policy Resource Center cited the U. Michigan study, noting that recent Medicare utilization and spending findings support Medicare telehealth expansions, and do not support discontinuing the Medicare extensions on the grounds of increased patient utilization or costs.

Source: Center for Connected Health Policy, New Extensions & New Studies: Recent Medicare Utilization & Spending Findings Support Continuing Medicare Telehealth Expansions

Telehealth in a Post-Pandemic World which FLEXIBILITIES REMAIN?



- Congress extended many telehealth flexibilities via Consolidated Appropriations Acts of 2023, 2024, 2025
- Medicare and Telehealth—through September 30, 2025, Medicare beneficiaries may:
- Have access to telehealth services in any geographic area within the U.S. rather than only in rural areas
 Stay in their homes for telehealth visits that Medicare pays for, rather than traveling to a health care facility
 Receive certain telehealth services using audio-only technology (e.g., telephones)
- Medicaid and Telehealth—post-PHE, CMS encouraged states to continue covering telehealth services
 post-pandemic. Certain Medicaid programs went beyond merely reimbursing office visit E&M codes and
 added a range of reimbursable telehealth services.

 Licensure—increased state involvement in licensure compacts is helping to ease the burdens and decrease waiting times for providers seeking to engage in cross-state practice, while preserving states' desire to have regulatory oversight over licensed professionals

Telehealth in a Post-Pandemic World A SECOND ACT FOR TELEHEALTH?

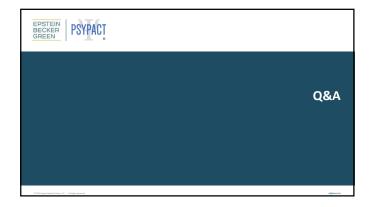
- Opportunities abound!
- Reducing reliance on emergency care settings
 Supporting better management of chronic disease
 Addressing disparities in health care access and quality
- Enhancing impact of and access to specialty care
- Priorities should include:
- Creating better pathways to interstate care
- Promoting geographic neutralityEncouraging value-based reimbursement models
- Focusing on delivery to underserved communities
 Leveraging remote monitoring technologies













Legal / Regulatory Resources

- Epstein Becker Green (<u>www.ebglaw.com</u>)
 Meet our <u>Telehealth team</u>!
 Download the <u>Telemental Health Laws App</u>!
 Read the <u>Health Law Advisor</u> blog!
- American Telemedicine Association (<u>www.americantelemed.org</u>)
- Alliance for Connected Care (<u>www.connectwithcare.org/</u>)
- Center for Connected Health Policy (www.cchpca.org)
- Center for Telehealth and eHealth Law (www.ctel.org)
- International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth (<u>www.isfteh.org/</u>)
- Telehealth Resource Centers (<u>www.telehealthresourcecenter.org/</u>)

PSYPACT Resources

- For further information please contact:
 Janet Orwig (<u>orwig@psypact.org</u>)
 Gina Polk (<u>goolk@psypact.org</u>)
 Ashley Lucas (<u>alucas@psypact.org</u>)

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