

ASSOCIATED CLINIC OF PSYCHOLOGY TELEMEDICINE POLICY

Definition: Telemedicine is the delivery of health care services or consultations through electronic communication while a client is at one site and the health care provider is at a distant site.

Telemedicine does not include the following:

- Electronic connections that are not conducted over a secure encrypted web site as specified by the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 Privacy & Security rules (e.g. Skype).
- Scheduling a test or appointment
- Reporting test results
- Non-clinical communication
- Communication via telephone, email, text or facsimile

Services provided via telemedicine have authorization requirements and reimbursement rates as do services delivered face-to-face.

ACP's policy regarding electronic communication has been prepared to optimize the potential for the security and confidentiality of your treatment and to assure that it is consistent with ethical rules and regulations.

Teletherapy is through videoconferencing also known as online, video or E-Therapy. ACP uses a secure platform that is compliant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. It is only through this platform that therapy sessions can take place as most other video conferencing programs are not confidential.

On line or E-therapy is not the same as phone counseling and actually requires face to face time via computer or smartphone. Just like "in office" sessions, these are scheduled with your provider and clinic ahead of time. ACP does not offer phone counseling or therapy through text or email. Email and text is only used in this process for the purpose of appointment reminders and "inviting" an individual to begin a teletherapy session. It is not a secure form of communication.

Clients must be in the state of Minnesota at the time of the session in order to receive services. Generally, distance therapists can only practice with clients who are in the state of their licensure unless they have been specifically licensed to provide services to individuals who reside or are temporarily located in other states.

While video-therapy can be as effective as in person therapy not every issue or individual is best served through distance therapy. Due to same, there may be times or circumstances when in office sessions would be more appropriate and this might require a referral to be made to another therapist if your current provider is unavailable for in person services.

ACP's business office will assist in clarifying coverage for this service. It is also the client's responsibility to consult with his/her insurance regarding benefits eligibility for online therapy and any other requirements of same. In person and online therapy rates remain the same and, if not billable to insurance, payment needs to take place at the time of service. Arrangements for this will be made through the ACP business department before beginning therapy.

If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to discuss this with your provider.
I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to ACPs policy on electronic therapy.

Client Name (Printed)

Date of Birth

Client Signature

Date

Client Email Address - Required (provider will email you an invite to join video conference)