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## **TELEHEALTH in EARLY INTERVENTION**

In an effort to facilitate continuity of service while protecting public health, the NY State Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention has temporarily approved the use of Telehealth within the Early Intervention Program (which was sent to you in our previous email).

### **HIPPA or Non-HIPPA Compliant – Both are Being Temporarily Allowed in NYS**

There are many Telehealth platforms to choose from. Two of these HIPPA Compliant platforms that we find user-friendly for both clinicians and patients are **Zoom** and **Doxy.me**. Zoom can be used directly from an app on your phone, while Doxy.me is used via computer (or accessed via internet on your phone – Not via app). Also, during the COVID-19 State of Emergency, you may use non-HIPAA compliant services, such as **FaceTime**. Many of our therapists and families have also been conducting successful Telehealth sessions and evaluations with **WhatsApp**.

Here are some other Frequently Asked Questions about Telehealth from [www.ChironHealth.com](http://www.ChironHealth.com)

#### **What is telemedicine?**

[Telemedicine](#) is the practice of providing clinical care to patients at a distance using telecommunications technology. In other words, it is a method of treating patients using the internet and telephone. This can take the form of real-time video visits, secure email, or remotely monitoring a patient's vital signs.

#### **Is telemedicine technology difficult to use?**

Of course, this depends on the specific application, but in general, telemedicine software is designed to be as easy to use as other familiar modern applications. Patients and providers with a basic familiarity with online apps should be able to quickly figure out how to use a telehealth application.

#### **Is the quality of care the same as an in-person visit?**

The quality of telemedicine as a method of healthcare delivery is confirmed by decades of research and demonstrations. Telemedicine has been found to be a safe, cost-effective and convenient way to provide healthcare services.

#### **Who benefits from telemedicine?**

There are three main beneficiaries of telemedicine:

- **Patients:** Telemedicine gives patients the opportunity to receive care without a trip to the doctor's office. They don't have to take time away from work or family responsibilities. They don't waste time traveling, or money on parking or public transportation. They don't risk exposure to other patients with communicable illnesses. And they get better health outcomes and become more engaged in their own healthcare.
- **Providers:** Video visits reduce the time of each encounter, allowing providers to see more patients, more efficiently. This boosts revenue and minimize overhead expenses. Telemedicine reduces no-shows and cancellations. It also helps secure patient loyalty in a competitive healthcare landscape.
- **The Healthcare System:** Even if you never use telemedicine yourself, [you will likely benefit from the practice](#). The efficiency of telemedicine will reduce wait-times for in-person visits, help keep people with non-urgent conditions out of the emergency room, and improve the overall health of the population.

#### **Here is a statement about temporarily relaxed HIPAA Requirements:**

[https://www.upweegrow.com/images/3172020\\_-\\_HIPPA\\_Laws\\_Relaxed\\_-\\_Notification\\_of\\_Enforcement\\_Discretion\\_for\\_telehealth\\_remote\\_communications\\_during\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_nationwide\\_public\\_health\\_emergency.pdf](https://www.upweegrow.com/images/3172020_-_HIPPA_Laws_Relaxed_-_Notification_of_Enforcement_Discretion_for_telehealth_remote_communications_during_the_COVID-19_nationwide_public_health_emergency.pdf)