Resource Document on Telemedicine in Psychiatry – Advocacy Priorities

The findings, opinions, and conclusions of this report do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, trustees, or all members of the American Psychiatric Association. The views expressed are those of the authors.

The APA will advocate for:
1. Increasing telemedicine and telepsychiatry research.
2. Developing and promoting telepsychiatry best practices.
3. Promoting telepsychiatry experiential learning during psychiatry residency.
4. Promoting telepsychiatry training opportunities for all psychiatrists.
5. Reducing regulatory barriers for the use of telepsychiatry.
6. Removing barriers preventing federal medical providers from evaluating, treating and consulting on any federal patient regardless of patient location.
7. Reimbursement parity of synchronous video-conferencing and in-person services where synchronous video-conferencing has demonstrated that quality of care is preserved.
8. Streamlining CPT coding.
9. Removing Medicare synchronous video-conferencing originating site restrictions in geographic areas with inadequate access to care but not classified as health profession shortage areas (HPSAs) by the Health Resource & Services Administration.
10. Including telemedicine and telepsychiatry in integrated care payment systems.

Committee on Telepsychiatry
Council on Healthcare Systems and Financing