Effective for dates of service March 15, 2020, through April 30, 2020, authorized occupational, physical, and speech therapy for clients of all ages may be delivered as a telehealth service for the Children with Special Healthcare Needs Services Program.

Telehealth therapy services must be delivered within the provision of current licensure requirements found in Occupational Therapy Rules, Physical Therapy Rules, and Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Administrative Rules.

Providers should use the 95 modifier to indicate remote delivery. Providers are reminded to use the required modifiers GP, GO, and GN on all claims for physical, occupational, or speech therapy treatment.

There will be no changes to the prior authorization submission process. A separate prior authorization is not needed solely to allow for the remote delivery of therapy services.

Evaluation, re-evaluation, and treatment may be delivered via telehealth as determined clinically appropriate by the rendering therapist and in compliance with each discipline’s rules.

Therapy assistants may provide telehealth and receive supervision within limits outlined in each discipline’s rules. Providers should refer to state practice rules and national guidelines regarding supervision requirements for each discipline.

Telehealth requires consent from the client or responsible adult. Verbal consent is permissible and should be documented in the client’s medical record. Teletherapies may require participation of a parent or caregiver to assist with the treatment.

Clinical evaluations required for the provision of new complex rehabilitation technology, such as power mobility and adaptive seating systems or augmentative communication devices, require the physical presence of the speech-language pathologist, the occupational therapist, or physical therapist and should not be delivered via telehealth unless exceptional medical circumstances exist.
Treatment notes should indicate that the remote delivery of the service is clinically appropriate per the treating therapist’s professional judgement.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the United States Department of Health and Human Services has relaxed Health Insurance Portability and Accountability requirements to allow for the use of additional video capabilities to deliver service via telehealth.

Providers may refer to “OCR Announces Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency,” for more information.

For more information, call the TMHP-CSHCN Services Program Contact Center at 800-568-2413.