

Telemedicine Behavioral Health Consent

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As a client or patient receiving behavioral services through telemedicine technologies, I understand:

- Telemedicine is the delivery of health services using interactive technologies (use of audio, video or other electronic communications) between a practitioner and a client/patient who are not in the same physical location.
- The interactive technologies used in telemedicine incorporate network and software security protocols to protect the confidentiality of client/patient information transmitted via any electronic channel. These protocols include measures to safeguard the data and to aid in protecting against intentional or unintentional corruption.

Software Security Protocols:

- Electronic systems used will incorporate network and software security protocols to protect the privacy and security of health information and imaging data, and will include measures to safeguard the data to ensure its integrity against intentional or unintentional corruption.

Benefits & Limitations:

- This service is provided by technology (including but not limited to video, phone, text, apps and email) and may not involve direct face to face communication. There are benefits and limitations to this service.

Technology Requirements:

- I will need access to, and familiarity with, the appropriate technology in order to participate in the service provided.

Exchange of Information:

- The exchange of information will not be direct and any paperwork exchanged will likely be provided through electronic means or through postal delivery.
- During my telemedicine consultation, details of my medical history and personal health information may be discussed with myself or other behavioral health care professionals through the use of interactive video, audio or other telecommunications technology.

Local Practitioners:

- If a need for direct, in-person services arises, it is my responsibility to contact my behavioral practitioner's office for an in-person appointment or my primary care physician if my behavioral practitioner is unavailable. I understand that an opening may not be immediately available in either office. In the event that I need immediate care, I will access emergency services such as calling 911, or going to my nearest hospital emergency department.

Self-Termination:

- I may decline any telemedicine services at any time without jeopardizing my access to future care, services, and benefits.

Risks of Technology:

- These services rely on technology, which allows for greater convenience in service delivery. There are risks in transmitting information over technology that include, but are not limited to, breaches of confidentiality, theft of personal information, and disruption of service due to technical difficulties.

Modification Plan:

- My practitioner and I will regularly reassess the appropriateness of continuing to deliver services to me through the use of the technologies we have agreed upon today, and modify our plan as needed.

Emergency Protocol:

- In emergencies, in the event of disruption of service, or for routine or administrative reasons, it may be necessary to communicate by other means:
- In emergency situations, I will contact my practitioner by phone to arrange the best next steps, if my practitioner is not available at that time, I will contact my primary care provider or emergency services.

Disruption of Service:

- Should service be disrupted, we will reconnect as soon as possible, and will attempt to make up the missed time by extending the session time as possible.
- For other communication, I will contact my practitioner via phone.

Practitioner Communication:

- My practitioner may utilize alternative means of communication in the following circumstances: when meeting in person in the office is not possible.
- My practitioner will respond to communications and routine messages as soon as possible.

Client Communication:

- As client, it is my responsibility to maintain privacy on the client end of communication. Insurance companies, those authorized by me, and those permitted by law may also have access to records or communications.
- I will take precautions to ensure that my communications are directed only to my psychotherapist or other designated healthcare practitioners I deem necessary.

Storage:

- My communication exchanged with my practitioner will be stored in the following manner:
 - As your psychotherapist, I will not store our telemedicine session communications.

Laws & Standards:

- The laws and professional standards that apply to in-person behavioral services also apply to telemedicine services. This document does not replace other agreements, contracts, or documentation of informed consent.

