

## **21 NCAC 64 .0219 TELEPRACTICE**

(a) In light of the State of Emergency declared by Executive Order No. 116, issued March 10, 2020, the Board shall temporarily waive the requirement for licensure for telepractice in order to allow speech and language pathologists to delegate authorized tasks allowed pursuant to 21 NCAC 64 .0114 by telepractice to speech and language pathology-assistants under the same level of direct supervision as required by 21 NCAC 64 .1003(e)(1),(2) and (6). This temporary waiver of licensure shall apply only to speech and language pathology-assistants and shall continue for the duration of the declared emergency as set forth in Executive Order No. 116 issued March 10, 2020.

(b) For purposes of this Rule the following words shall have the following meanings:

- (1) "Patient site" means the patient's physical location at the time of the receipt of the telepractice services.
- (2) "Provider" means a licensed speech and language pathologist or audiologist who provides telepractice services.
- (3) "Provider site" means the licensee's physical location at the time of the provision of the telepractice services.
- (4) "Telepractice" means the use of telecommunications and information technologies for the exchange of encrypted patient data, obtained through real-time interaction, from patient site to provider site for the provision of speech and language pathology and audiology services to patients through hardwire or internet connection. Telepractice also includes the interpretation of patient information provided to the licensee via store and forward techniques.

(c) Telepractice shall be obtained in real time and shall ensure patient confidentiality.

(d) Telepractice is subject to the same standard of practice stated in Rules .0205 and .0216 of this Chapter as if the person being treated were physically present with the licensee. Telepractice is the responsibility of the licensee.

(e) Telepractice constitutes the practice of Speech and Language Pathology and Audiology in both the patient site and provider site. Providers must hold a license in the state of the provider site and shall be in compliance with the statutory and regulatory requirements of the patient site.

(f) Licensees and staff involved in telepractice must be trained in the use of telepractice equipment.

(g) Notification of telepractice services shall be provided to the patient and guardian if the patient is a minor. The notification shall include the right to refuse telepractice services and options for alternate service delivery.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-304(a)(3);  
Eff. July 1, 2020;  
Amended Eff. March 1, 2014;  
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. October 4, 2016;  
Emergency Amendment Eff. March 27, 2020;  
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 26, 2020.*