

# Why Telehealth for PT, OT, Hearing and Speech?

**Hosted by:** Hospital for Special Surgery, the American Physical Therapy Association, The American Occupational Therapy Association, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

**May 21, 2024**

at 12:00 p.m.

**Location**

Rayburn House Office Building Room 2044

*Boxed lunch will be available on a first come first serve basis*

The COVID-19 pandemic helped to reveal the benefits and value of telehealth as a tool to fill gaps in patient care. Audio and video telehealth reduces barriers to care such as transportation, child care, time off from work and in-person appointment availability. Since the onset of the pandemic, providers such as physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists have utilized telehealth to maintain care continuation with patients that would traditionally see them only in an in-person setting. The value this flexibility has provided should be permanently extended through the passage of the Expanded Telehealth Access Act introduced by Representatives Sherrill (D-NJ) and Harshbarger (R-TN) as part of comprehensive telehealth legislation this year.

Hear from these providers and a patient advocate about the benefits of continuing this flexibility. The discussion will cover:

- The positive impacts of telehealth on patient care
- How providers such as physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and audiologists provide telehealth services
- The patient experience with telehealth for therapy services
- The consequences of not passing legislation to permanently extend COVID-era telehealth flexibilities

**Moderator:**

Dr. Catherine MacLean, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Value Medical Officer, Hospital for Special Surgery

**Speakers:**

Charles Fisher, MPT, Vice President of Rehabilitation and Performance, Hospital for Special Surgery  
Kathleen Dwyer, OTR/L, CHT, RAC-CT, CHC, Vice President of Compliance, Legacy Healthcare Services  
Elizabeth U. Grillo, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, CHSE, EMT, Professor, West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
Suzanne Younker, Au.D., Director of Compliance and Loss Prevention, HearingLife  
Ann Mond Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, American Telemedicine Association