

Examining the Experiences of Occupational Therapists Utilizing Telehealth – A Capstone Project

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ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Occupational Therapy program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison culminates in a Capstone Experience. Students with an interest in telehealth policy and advocacy have been partnered with gpTRAC to identify and address specific areas of need within the organization, particularly as they relate to OT and Telehealth.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT – What & Why

Previous OTD capstone student, Dr. Tori Johnstone, developed an OT telehealth toolkit, infographic, and hosted a webinar to support OT telehealth practice.

Needs assessment for the current project revealed:

- Limited feedback/response to existing resources
- Gap in understanding the specific barriers occupational therapists face when using telehealth.

This capstone project focused on gathering valuable insights from practitioners by interviewing occupational therapists from the region about their experiences utilizing telehealth.

This project aimed to uncover the challenges and benefits within telehealth OT Practice, to highlight future areas of resource development for gpTRAC.

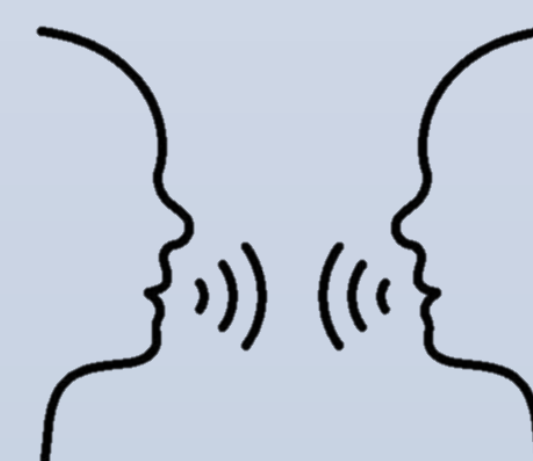
Practitioners identified the following benefits and challenges to utilizing telehealth in their practice settings:

Benefits

- Increased family/caregiver participation
- Improved time efficiency
- Broadened access to client home setup information
- Increased access to care for rural patients

Challenges:

- Inconsistent training for practitioners on telehealth
- Difficulties administering interventions remotely
- Limited availability of assessments suitable for telehealth
- Perception of telehealth efficacy among patients and practitioners



CONTACT INFORMATION

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OT PRACTITIONER INFORMATION

17 Practitioners were interviewed for this project.

Practice settings of OT practitioners interviewed included:

- Outpatient Physical Rehabilitation
- Outpatient Mental Health
- Outpatient Primary Care
- Virtual School Based Practice
- Home Based Primary Care
- Home Health OT
- Wheelchair Seating/Positioning and Prosthetics
- Inpatient Physical Rehabilitation

OT TELEHEALTH RESOURCES



OT Telehealth Toolkit and Infographic

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND FUTURE PLANS

Occupational therapists in the Great Plains region are effectively utilizing telehealth across diverse settings to serve individuals of all ages. However, challenges such as inconsistent training, difficulties in remote interventions, limited telehealth assessments, and perceptions of telehealth efficacy among patients and practitioners persist. One way to address these challenges might be to develop telehealth training modules for OT students and practitioners. These targeted trainings could equip practitioners to better meet client needs, ultimately improving the quality and effectiveness of telehealth interventions.

