

TELEPRACTICE INFORMED CONSENT FORM

The American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) defines telepractice (the act of providing Telehealth services) as "the application of telecommunications technology to delivery of professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client, or clinician to clinician, for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation." This service delivery model is supported by the Washington State licensing board, the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA), and is payable by most insurance carriers per the Telehealth Enhancement Act of 2013-H.R.3306, 113th Congress, The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R.748), and Title 182, Chapter 182-531, Section 182-531-1730 of the Washington Administrative Code. Telepractice is viewed as a mode of delivery of health care services, not a separate form of practice. There are no legal prohibitions to using technology in the practice of speech-language pathology, as long as the practice is done by a Washington licensed practitioner. The standard of care is the same whether the patient is seen in-person, through telehealth (telepractice) or by other methods of electronically enabled health care.

As such, Rebecca Cummings, M.S., CCC-SLP, PLLC d.b.a. Northshore Pediatric Therapy ("Northshore Pediatric Therapy") offers telepractice speech therapy services through a live interactive video conferencing software platform, which is HIPAA-compliant per the Business Associate Agreement established between Northshore Pediatric Therapy and the video conferencing software platform. This is in place to protect the confidentiality of patient identification and data and protect against intentional or unintentional corruption.

Our client will connect over the internet per instructions provided by an employee of Northshore Pediatric Therapy for connecting to an established telepractice platform. The speech therapist will then admit the client to the meeting when services are ready to be provided. The practitioner and the client will then be able to see and hear each other in real time. The therapist is able to perform diagnostic assessments and provide treatment.

1. I understand that "telepractice" includes diagnosis and treatment using interactive audio, video, or data communications. I understand that telepractice also involves the communication of my medical information, both orally and visually.
2. I understand that the standard of care is the same whether the patient is seen in-person or through telepractice and that I will be notified immediately if it is determined that this delivery model is not appropriate for a patient.
3. I have the right to withhold or withdraw consent to participate in telepractice at any time without it affecting my right to future care or treatment but that the care or treatment may not be available through Northshore Pediatric Therapy.
4. I understand that healthcare information may be shared with other individuals for the purposes of scheduling, billing, and in implementing a patient's plan of care and that these individuals involved will at all times maintain confidentiality of the information obtained and the laws that protect privacy and confidentiality of medical information equally apply to telepractice.
5. I understand that I am responsible for providing the necessary computer, telecommunications equipment (camera and microphone) and internet access for my telepractice sessions.

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6. I understand that for certain patients, an adult facilitator will be required to be present in the room for assisting with technical difficulties, or keeping a patient on task.
7. I understand that I am responsible for arranging a quiet location with sufficient lighting and privacy that is free from distractions or intrusions for the telepractice session to take place in.
8. I understand that Northshore Pediatric Therapy’s “payment policy” is the same for telepractice appointments as in-person appointments. Northshore Pediatric Therapy does not guarantee any payment by insurance companies. The patient is responsible for the payment of all services rendered. As a courtesy, Northshore Pediatric Therapy will bill insurances we are contracted with. A credit card must be kept on file to be utilized in the event of missed appointments, fees, and outstanding balances owed to Northshore Pediatric Therapy past 30 days.
9. I understand that there are benefits, risks, and possible consequences associated with telepractice, including, but not limited to, the possibility, despite reasonable efforts on the part of Northshore Pediatric Therapy, that: the transmission of my information could be disrupted or distorted by technical failures; the transmission of my information could be interrupted by unauthorized persons; and/or the electronic storage of my medical information could be accessed by unauthorized persons.

I have read and understand the information provided above and have had my questions answered to my satisfaction. I have read this document carefully, and understand the risks, benefits, and my rights related to the telepractice and I am hereby electively giving my informed consent to participate in a telepractice service through Rebecca Cummings, M.S., CCC-SLP, PLLC d.b.a. Northshore Pediatric Therapy under the terms described herein. I hereby state that I have read, understood, and agree to the terms of this document.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Date_____