

SEPTEMBER 2025 - MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome and Introductions

Featured topic: Telehealth services and equitable care for people with communication disabilities. Richard Hurtig will provide updates on the state of telehealth services related to communication services. Although updates will highlight U.S. legislation, this topic raises universal questions on equitable access to care for people with communication and physical disabilities. Questions we may address include:

1. What is the state of telehealth services in the U.S. (current legislation, proposed changes, why this matters, what does the data tell us)?
2. What is the state of telehealth services outside the U.S.?
3. What is currently being done (in the U.S. and internationally) to prompt needed changes?
4. What can PPC stakeholders do to advocate for needed changes?

He shared an open-access article on the topic of telehealth: [Bridging the Gap: Insights From Telepractice Augmentative and Alternative Communication Services in the Digital Age](#)

Open Forum: If you are unable to attend this week's meeting, but want to ask or share information, please email info@patientprovidercommunication.org so we may pass along.

- Lois Turner highlighted information:
 - [17th World Congress of Intensive and Critical Care](#)
 - [You want to what?!?! Practical Strategies to Communicate with your Critically Ill Patient](#)
- Krista Davidson: RescueVoice now has a Spanish option! Check it out at https://linktr.ee/rescue_voice
- Marrok Sedgwick asked the following questions of interest to CommunicationFIRST:
 - “We have two big Telehealth questions at CommunicationFIRST that we’d love to hear your collective knowledge regarding: Where are the proposed changes laid out (so we can read them further)? Is the proposal to terminate

authority/coverage for all Telehealth appointments that a person with a speech-related disability or condition might have (e.g. - primary care conducted through Telehealth as a disability accommodation), or just those appointments involving the provision of SLP or communication-related services?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next PPCN meeting occurs during the American Speech-Language Hearing Association convention. Given many participants will be in attendance, we propose moving November’s forum call to **Friday, November 14th. Please adjust your calendars (and alarms!) accordingly.**

RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT:

- Healthgrades article: “How to Advocate for Yourself with Doctors” [10+ Ways to Help You Advocate for Yourself with Doctors](#)
 - [Open Access](#)
- Article: “Speech is Exhausting” by E. Corbin
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40509739/>
 - [Open Access](#)
- Article: Addressing Healthcare Communication Gaps: Improving Patient Experiences and Outcomes through Human-Centered Design” by S. Leotin
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12033540/>
 - [Open Access](#)
- Article: “Communication Experiences of Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Patients During Healthcare Access and Consultation: A Systemic Narrative Review” by G. Wilson-Menzfeld, J. R. Gates, C. Jackson-Corbett, G. Erfani
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1155/hsc/8867224>
 - [Open Access](#)
- Article: “A Family Systems Approach to Augmentative and Alternative Communication Service Delivery in the Inpatient Setting: Recommendations for Speech-Language Pathologists” by S. Brittlebank, J. Gormley, M. Fiala, & G. Fosco https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2025_AJSLP-25-00028 (ASHA Member access but free version coming soon!)

- Article: “Adult Learning and Patient Engagement” by M. Fiala, S. Yelish Biniecki, & J. Gormley <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED673722.pdf>
 - Open Access

Telehealth Discussion

- This is for PT/OT/SLP telehealth sessions
- Additional providers may not offer telehealth as frequently?
- Providers who will lose Telehealth Eligibility

Without additional legislative intervention, providers who received temporary allowance will no longer be eligible to provide telehealth services to Medicare beneficiaries. This includes:

 - Occupational therapists
 - Physical therapists
 - Speech-language pathologists
 - Audiologists
- Write to legislator:

<https://www.asha.org/news/2025/congress-must-act-to-protect-medicare-telehealth-services-for-audiologists-and-slps/?srsId=AfmBOooSliskTCKcHxQNJk-P9qPybun3SR9xN0djZ39uMHIDALh5nNK8>

ASHA SIG groups disappear at the end of this year -