April 2, 2020

Name

Title

Organization

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Medical Director,

Apraxia Kids is the leading non-profit organization that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech. Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a neurological disorder that effects a child’s ability to effectively sequence the sounds of speech to produce words. They know what they want to say, but are not able to produce words intelligibly. These children require intensive speech therapy to learn how to talk. Under the current climate, children with speech and language disorders do not have access to in-person therapy in their homes, schools, outpatient clinics, or in private practice clinics in order to keep children, families, and therapy providers safe. But continuity of speech therapy for children with CAS is essential in order to not negatively impact their progress and ultimate speech outcomes.

To meet this challenge, speech-language pathologists are preparing to deliver quality services through telepractice. This format allows for practitioners to continue providing support to children and their families during this time of social distancing. In order for this service to be accessible, however, Apraxia Kids is urging insurance companies to cover necessary speech therapy services delivered through telepractice. Speech therapy delivered by telepractice is research-based in demonstrating its efficacy and equivalent quality to face-to-face interventions and is supported by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Code of Ethics. The CDC has indicated that the COVID-19 outbreak could last in a community for weeks or months. It is an urgent need for children to have access to therapy provided through telehealth. In order for this to occur, there needs to be consistent health plan coverage and reimbursement for services delivered via telepractice.

Thank you for considering joining the growing list of companies who have already approved policy changes to expand access to speech and language services provided by speech-language pathologists via telepractice. Your time is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Laura L Moorer, CCC/SLP

Vice President of Programs

Apraxia Kids