



TELEHEALTH RISK-BENEFIT DECISION GUIDE

From the CEU "Telehealth in ABA: Efficiency vs. Effectiveness, Risk-Benefit Analysis, and Ethical Supervision at a Distance" · Instructors: Sean Yocum, MA, BCBA, LBA; Michael Carrero, BCBA, LBA

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RAD N BAD RULE

Efficient isn't the same as effective. Run the risk-benefit analysis before you pick telehealth, and keep checking integrity data after.

HOW TO USE THIS: Work through this guide before you choose telehealth for a client or a service component, and again at each progress review.

STEP 1: DEFINE THE SERVICE COMPONENT

- ☐ Which component is being considered: caregiver training, direct treatment, supervision, or assessment?
- ☐ Can it be done remotely? Rate each component separately, not the case as a whole.

STEP 2: BENEFITS FOR THE CLIENT

- ☐ Increases access (distance, wait list, rural area)?
- ☐ Lets you observe and coach caregivers in their natural routines?
- ☐ Supports more frequent supervision or caregiver contact?

STEP 3: RISKS TO THE CLIENT

- ☐ Does the client need physical prompting, safety support, or close proximity?
- ☐ Would remote administration threaten the validity of the assessment? Direct testing that requires materials or close observation is a red flag.
- ☐ Are there technology, internet, privacy, or caregiver-availability barriers?
- ☐ Can you collect treatment-integrity data remotely and reliably?

STEP 4: WHO BENEFITS?

- ☐ Answer honestly: is the main reason clinical benefit, or scheduling and business efficiency?
- ☐ If in-person services would be more effective, document why telehealth is still being chosen and how you'll monitor it.

STEP 5: SUPERVISOR READINESS

- ☐ Has the supervisor shown they can give remote feedback, model skills on camera, and run BST at a distance?
- ☐ Is there a plan for integrity checks, at least monthly?

STEP 6: MONITOR AND DECIDE

- ☐ Graph client progress and integrity data at every review
- ☐ Integrity is low after feedback: increase in-person support or reassign
- ☐ Progress is flat for two review periods: modify the modality or transition the case
- ☐ Transparency: have caregivers review and sign session notes

THE RECEIPTS · REFERENCES

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