

APA/APASI Policy for mHealth, Telehealth, and Similar Technology Advertisers / Exhibitors

This document provides an opportunity to educate technology providers and services about what APA/APASI considers indications of quality and scientific value. Before a technology or software provider, or digital service related to mobile health (mHealth), telehealth or other healthcare application, is permitted to advertise, exhibit, or sponsor with APA/APASI, the following will be evaluated by professional staff (as applicable):

- 1) Considerations regarding the scientific/research evidence and product utility
 - a) Documentation of evidence base (efficacy or effectiveness) of product/service
 - b) Explanation of usability for expected users
 - c) Disclosure of any known risks
 - d) Mental health professional involvement
 - i) In development/scoping, were psychologists included?
 - ii) Any psychologists on executive team and/or advisory board?
 - iii) Role of other mental health professionals in developing and running the product or service
- 2) Considerations regarding anonymity
 - a) If the product or service is intended as a clinical service, the platform or solution does not accept anonymous patients
 - b) If the product or service is a platform or solution not intended as a clinical service (such as uses for education, analytics, training, gaming, or rehabilitation), anonymity is acceptable and expected for some uses.
- 3) Considerations regarding establishing a clinical relationship
 - a) If the product is intended as a clinical service, it provides a mechanism for appropriately establishing a clinical relationship between provider and patient (e.g. video conference), and/or is only utilized with established patients.
 - b) If the product is intended as a clinical service, it includes reasonable privacy and confidentiality considerations.
- 4) Considerations regarding patient referrals, contracts, and compliance
 - a) If the product or service is intended as a clinical service, psychologists cannot be prohibited from referring patients out of the platform or otherwise exercising their professional judgment
 - b) If the product or service utilizes a clinical contract/agreement, HIPAA, federal and state licensing and privacy laws, conflicts of interest, and other regulatory concerns will be considered.
 - c) When applicable, external verifications of quality or compliance will be considered.
- 5) Considerations regarding patients in crisis
 - a) If intended as a clinical service, provisions for patients in crisis must be in place
 - b) As appropriate, crisis resources are available/indicated through the product.
- 6) Considerations regarding the privacy policy for consumer data (users of the system or app), including ownership of the data, access to the data, whether data are sold or shared with third party providers.