

**PAAs United for Movement Disorders:
Showcasing TD Awareness Week
Best Practices to Ignite a Movement**



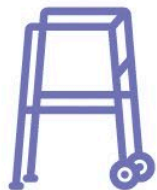
**An Overview of TD
& Key Issues**

**Josie Cooper
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What is a Movement Disorder?

- Neurological conditions marked by abnormal body movements or slow, reduced movements.
- Many conditions fall under the umbrella of movement disorders, including Parkinson's disease, tardive dyskinesia, Huntington's disease, dystonia, essential tremor, Tourette syndrome, ataxia, restless legs syndrome, and others.

Though some movement disorders are relatively rare, collectively their prevalence is significant.



Tardive Dyskinesia

Understanding *Tardive Dyskinesia*



Tardive Dyskinesia impacts up to 30% of people who've used antipsychotics for long-term treatment of serious mental illnesses like bipolar disorder or schizophrenia.¹



TD can cause involuntary and repetitive movements of the face or torso such as chewing, blinking or rocking.

For the **500,000 Americans** affected by TD, **the disease can worsen the stigma of mental illness** and cause embarrassment and withdrawal from society.²

The Good News

FDA NEWS RELEASE

FDA approves first drug to treat tardive dyskinesia

[< Research News](#)

Newly Approved Parkinson's Drug Aims to Lessen "Off" Time

April 27, 2020

Two New Drugs for Tardive Dyskinesia Hit the Market

Promising results for Parkinson's disease treatment
New protocols extend therapeutic benefits of deep brain stimulation



The Challenge



Awareness Challenges

- Despite the fact that more than 500,000 people in the United States are affected by TD, the condition is still widely unknown or misunderstood due to a lack of public awareness.
- Awareness challenges exist with patients, providers, and the general public.

Utilization Management

Once a commonsense safeguard, prior authorization now, **REGULARLY DELAYS TREATMENT** for neurological disease patients.



STABLE PATIENTS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO SWITCH

to a different medication just to save insurers money.



STEP THERAPY

interrupts treatment plans and undermines patient-centered care.



Cost-Sharing

Patients may have to choose between their medication and everyday necessities.

Abandoning their medication can lead to:



Unchecked physical symptoms



Worsening mental health



Disease progression

Access to Specialists

Neurology®

June 15, 2021; 96 (24) CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

A Shortage of Neurologists – We Must Act Now



Many States Face Shortage of Mental Health Providers

Wyoming and Utah have the largest proportion of their populations living in mental health shortage areas, at 96.4% and 83.3%, respectively.

By [Kaia Hubbard](#) | June 10, 2021



A Parkinson's 'pandemic' is coming and there aren't enough doctors to deal with it



Telemedicine

How Telemedicine Helps Movement Disorders Patients



Movement disorders require ongoing care. That can be challenging due to:



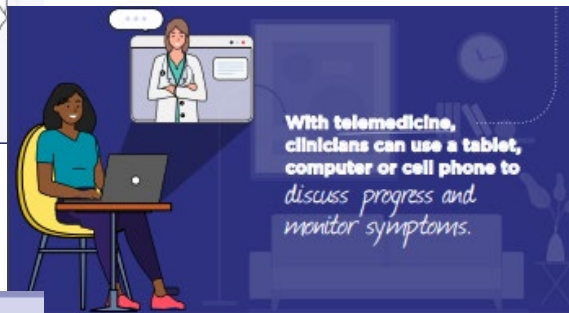
Movement issues & transportation costs



Caregiver Challenges



Proximity & scarcity of specialists



With telemedicine, clinicians can use a tablet, computer or cell phone to discuss progress and monitor symptoms.

Telemedicine can, when appropriate, help patients manage both physical & mental health symptoms.



Telemedicine

A POSITION STATEMENT
from the Alliance for Patient Access

OVERVIEW

Telemedicine allows patients to consult with their health care providers via phone, computer, tablet or mobile device. The remote visits enable health care providers to assess symptoms, follow up on previous visits, make treatment decisions and explore medication side effects – while patients remain at home, work or a local clinic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, telemedicine has provided a bridge between patients and providers. To accommodate the greater need for telemedicine, policymakers have relaxed restrictions on when and how telemedicine can be used. They have also implemented reimbursement for telemedicine, making it a viable offering for health care providers.

Many patients and health care providers now see telemedicine as a critical part of care, especially for patients who struggle with the logistics of getting to a doctor's appointment or those with compromised immune systems who want to avoid exposure to the public. By reducing the number of missed visits, telemedicine increases patients' compliance with their care plan and improves health outcomes.

By making regulatory flexibilities and coverage policies permanent, policymakers can protect telemedicine as a lasting tool to promote continuous, efficient and patient-centered health care.

POSITION

The Alliance for Patient Access presents the following suggestions for laws that govern the use of telemedicine:

- 1 **Allow telemedicine for a wide range of medical uses.** Policy flexibility during COVID-19 enabled telemedicine for previously uncovered medical purposes. Continuing to allow for broad application of telemedicine could maximize its value to patients and providers.
- 2 **Resolve state medical licensure restrictions.** The process for medical licensure must be updated to allow patients access to the clinicians of their choice.
- 3 **Remove geographic and site-of-service restrictions for patients and clinicians.** Patients and clinicians must be free to select any private site for conducting a telemedicine visit.
- 4 **Maintain parity payment policies for telemedicine.** To continue providing virtual consultations for patients, health care providers must be reimbursed for remote visits at the same rate as for in-person visits.
- 5 **Continue to broadly define telemedicine services.** Not all patients have access to hi-speed internet or are comfortable operating a smart phone. By defining telemedicine to include low-tech applications such as audio-only telephone calls where appropriate, lawmakers can allow a broader range of patients to benefit.
- 6 **Support connectivity in rural and underserved areas.** Funding that boosts the technical capabilities of underserved communities can improve care by making telemedicine more accessible.

AllianceforPatientAccess.org

