

Tele-safe: Development of Digital Platform for Telerehabilitation

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ABSTRACT

The worldwide COVID 19 pandemic is a nightmare where people around the world are caught unprepared. That, waking up in one morning everyone's life turns upside down. Despite this crisis, the new normal life must go on. Every aspect of one's life has changed like business, education, medical services, and others but these need to evolve. This pandemic affects most especially the health care services which has forced clinicians to shift from traditional face to face treatment to telerehabilitation. This descriptive developmental type of research aimed to develop a digital platform on telerehabilitation for Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy in delivering health services in the advent of innovation in technology. Specifically, this study sought to answers to following sub questions: What are the current practices in telerehabilitation for Physical therapy and Occupational Therapy during the pandemic? What are the common problems encountered by the Physical therapists and Occupational Therapist in telerehabilitation using existing platforms? What specific digital platform can be designed and developed to facilitate effective telerehabilitation for Physical therapy and Occupational Therapy? What is the level of acceptance of the developed digital platform for telerehabilitation among the users of the system? What is of the level of usability of the developed digital platform for telerehabilitation as rated by IT Professionals based on ISO 9126, to wit; Functionality, reliability; usability; efficiency; maintainability; and portability? The respondents of the study were thirty (30) Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist from rehabilitation facilities in Laguna who utilized telerehabilitation and four (4) IT professionals evaluated the usability of the developed digital platform. Results showed that respondents had problems in terms of documentation of patient record and treatment plan and professional fee collection since these are not integrated in the method of telerehabilitation that they are using. The respondents' level of acceptance of developed digital platform claimed that is acceptable as to its ease of use, completeness, and overall usability. As to the level of usability, the respondents stated that the developed digital platform is highly acceptable as to its functionality, reliability, usability, efficiency, maintainability, and portability. Therefore, the current practices in telerehabilitation this time of pandemic, the Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist still found pen and paper useful for documentation. Videoconferencing is the commonly used platform for its accessibility. The common problems encountered by Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist using the existing platform rested on its difficulty uploading the patient's laboratory findings, giving instructions and treatment plan, cannot give accurate feedback and hard time to collect professional fees for there is no direct



payment. The developed digital platform is found to be acceptable for its ease of use. As far as usability is concerned the developed digital platform is functionally suitable and has portability for telerehabilitation.

Keywords: TeLEE-SAFE, Telerehabilitation, Digital Platform, Level of Acceptability, Level of Usability.