

Consent to use Skype for EAP Counseling

- Skype™ is a form of Interactive Audio-Visual Technology (IATV).
- Then the concerns about using Skype in Telehealth primarily focus on:
 - Confidentiality and privacy
 - HIPAA compliance
 - Dropped calls and other potential interruption of communication
- At the present time there is no definitive evidence that free downloadable programs, such as Skype, meet HIPAA security requirements and BAA is required, but Skype will not provide it (not as of Jan. 2003).
- The HITECH Act of 2011 added more ways to enforce HIPPA and added more regulations and penalties. These new regulations have added importance to the Business Associate contract. Several experts have cited HITECH Act to raise a concern that Skype doesn't provide a protocol for trail audits or breach notification. Trail audits are a means of logging information to keep records about a video call, i.e., what and when. Breach notification relates to whenever data was accessed by unauthorized people or even an attempt to gain access to the video call. Interactive Audio-Visual Technology outfits are supposed to notify the government when a breach or breach attempt occurs, Skype doesn't have that mechanism.

I _____, have read the above description regarding the security issues in the use of Skype. After reading these issues I agree to receive counseling from _____ understanding the risk associated with the use of Skype. I further agree, to take responsibility in the event of a breach of confidentiality.

Signature _____

Date _____