Table 2

Telepsychiatry Technology and Variables Used in a Treatment Session

Technology	**Description**
Hardware	
camera/webcam	Used to capture images for transmission to and from both ends of a session.
speakers/headphones	Used to deliver audio at both ends of a session.
monitor	Used to deliver video images at both ends of a session.
microphone	Used to capture audio for transmission to and from both ends of a session.
Software	
videoconferencing	Software that coordinates the capture, transmission, and playback of audio and video
encryption	Algorithms designed to specially encode signals to prevent interception of audio, video, and other data during transmission
codec	Software that encodes, compresses, decodes, and synchronizes audio and video signals. Most prevailing codecs are compliant with standards.
other	Note-taking software, electronic health records, etc. Not part of the videoconferencing software, but able to be used in conjunction with it.
Network	
ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network)	Able to integrate and transmit audio, video, and data. Low- to high-speed, secure, point-to-point transmission.
T1	Multichannel telecommunication lines providing point-to-point, secure transmission
satellite	Channel utilizing satellite for signal transmission
microwave	Encoding of signals in microwave band
Internet Protocol (IP) network	Widely used network (Internet/web) utilizing protocol for transmission over public networks
Variables	
transmission speed	The rate at which signals and data can be transmitted. Measured in kilobits per second (Kbps).
video quality	Measured as the number of frames per second (FPS) and refers to the refresh rate of the video picture.
encryption algorithm	The software that is used to encrypt the audio, video, and other data sent during transmission. Common, public encryption standards use 128-bit to 256-bit encryption.
bandwidth	The amount of data (audio, video, etc.) that can be transmitted