

Teledentistry

Quick Facts

State-by-State Guide

What to know about
teledentistry in your state

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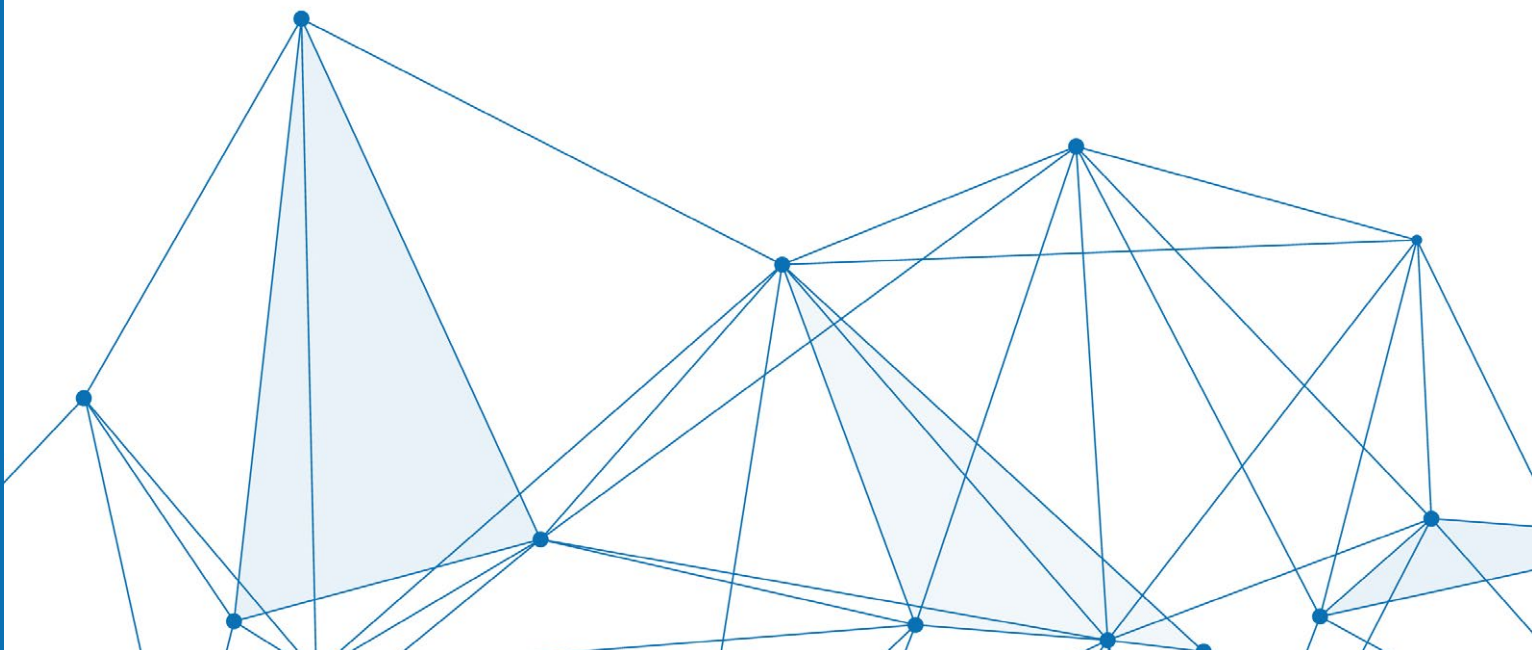
Introduction

This ebook is for teledentistry adopters. We hope it opens the door to thinking broadly about the use cases of teledentistry and how the technology of connecting, capturing, and coordinating care can be used to not only mitigate risk during crisis situations, not only expand access to care in public health settings, but also expand dental opportunities for care everywhere across multiple specialties — while improving patient experience.

State regulations and state dental board policies vary widely by state. During Covid-19 we also saw rapid changes happen. It's also true though that in every US state, even the most restrictive ones, there are ways to use a teledentistry platform to solve real-world problems and create opportunities for care.

Have further questions? Want to know more about what to look for in a teledentistry platform? Contact us to schedule a 1-to-1 brief consultation on how teledentistry can work in your setting for your goals.

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Use Cases

There are multiple kinds of use cases for teledentistry. Not all are available in every state due to state practice acts, laws and insurance variability.

Patient live video consultations

Dentists can use live video consultations to complete limited exams for patients located outside the dental office. Dentists may also use them to facilitate live consultations with other healthcare providers during a patient appointment or afterward for case collaboration and treatment planning. Live video communication is also a good way to calibrate staff located in other facilities or mobile-locations.

Patient and provider messaging

Providers can triage patients' needs through messaging and sending photos, if necessary, prior to the appointment. Additionally, providers can use this tool to send patient paperwork before an appointment and to send follow-up information such as visual treatment plans, treatment recommendations, and post-procedure check-ins. Dental providers can use messaging to send patient information (eg. intra oral photos, radiographs, digital impressions, etc) for case collaboration and treatment planning with other providers.

In-office teledentistry

Hygienists equipped with intraoral cameras and a teledentistry platform can capture intraoral images to share with the dentist for asynchronous review and evaluation together with other diagnostic assets such as radiographs, patient notes, and periodontal charting. This means the dentist does not need to use PPE for a quick consultation with the patient. It means mitigating risk and being more efficient. Further, teledentistry can be used to remotely treatment plan and (if the teledentistry platform supports it) do remote visual case presentations to the patient through a patient portal.

Develop a network for referrals

Teledentistry makes it easy for dental hygienists, dentists, and specialists to communicate with each other as well as work with pediatric, geriatric and special needs medical practices for referral of patients in need of oral health care.

Enhance public oral health programs

Dental hygienists working under general supervision can support public health programs to reach more patients in need of preventive and certain types of restorative care. Reduce costs by limiting the amount of time that a supervising dentist needs to be on-site while increasing the number of patients that can be provided treatment.

Co-locate a dental hygienist at a medical care facility

Use Cases

Patients with dental pain or other issues often present at hospitals or clinics, which may not have a dentist on staff. Dental therapists and dental hygienists can practice under collaborative practice arrangement in medical facilities and use teledentistry to visually and quickly communicate with a dentist when required, making triage, diagnosis and appointment planning more efficient.

Launch a mobile dental or dental hygiene practice

Mobile dentistry kits combined with teledentistry software facilitate the administration and delivery of mobile dentistry and hygiene practices.

Mentor and supervise multiple locations

Growing group practices can now encourage consistency and quality in case presentations and treatment plans without the founding dentists being on-site at every location. Teledentistry allows remote monitoring of associate dentists' treatment plans, live consultations with patients, and robust visual collaboration. Asynchronous messaging and/or a patient portal.

Offer expanded access to hygiene and preventive services

Having dental hygienists available in your practice before or after normal office hours (evening or weekends) is an easy way to accommodate patients with challenging schedules or reach new patients and improve patient satisfaction. Or, offer hygiene services in out-of-office locations like workplaces or other settings that are convenient for patients. In either case, a dentist can easily provide general supervision and conveniently be available to communicate through teledentistry, being aware and available when needed.

Expand access with a dental assistant

In specific situations, an Expanded Function Dental Assistant may apply fluoride varnish, sealants, interim therapeutic agents and temporarily recement crowns without the onsite presence of a supervising dentist. Additionally, an Expanded Function Orthodontic Assistant may provide limited "emergency" services without the onsite supervision of a dentist if a patient is in discomfort.

Establish a "collaborative practice" relationship

Under a collaborative relationship with a licensed dentist, a dental hygienist may perform dental hygiene services in settings other than the traditional dental office without the patient first being examined by the dentist. These settings can include schools, nursing homes, clinics, Head Start programs, and more. Using teledentistry, a dentist can immediately diagnose and propose restorative treatment while the patient is still with the hygienist, which encourages the patient (or guardian) to schedule an office appointment.



Arizona

01

Does Arizona allow for direct access to dental hygiene services?

All dental hygienists in Arizona can practice in the traditional dental office under general supervision without the onsite supervision of a dentist. Dental hygienists who work for public health institutions or schools may provide screenings and fluoride without supervision. Affiliated Practice Dental Hygienists practicing with a written agreement may provide preventive services in “specified settings.”

Dental therapy has been approved by the Arizona legislature. A dental therapist who completes 400 clinical hours under the direct supervision of a dentist may enter into a written collaborative practice agreement and subsequently practice without the onsite presence of a dentist.

02

Does Arizona allow dental assistants to participate in teledentistry services?

An Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) may apply fluoride varnish and sealants under general supervision of a dentist. EFDAs may also place interim therapeutic restorations under the direction of a licensed dentist following a consultation conducted through teledentistry.

A dental assistant may expose radiographs and provide coronal polishing under the general supervision of a dentist.

03

How does Arizona define teledentistry?

Arizona defines teledentistry as “...the use of data transmitted through interactive audio, video or data communications for the purpose of examination, diagnosis, treatment planning, consultation and directing the delivery of treatment by dentist and dental providers in settings...”

04

Is it possible to be reimbursed for teledentistry services?

Reimbursement is allowed for both synchronous and asynchronous telemedicine services. Arizona statutes specifically mandates live video coverage of teledentistry services for enrollees under the age of 21.

05

Does Arizona provide a Parity Law regarding teledentistry?

Arizona has parity laws in place that allow coverage under private insurance and Medicaid.

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