

Teledentistry Guiding Principles

Expanding Access to Quality, Convenient and Affordable Dental Care



American
TeleDentistry
Association

Telehealth and teledentistry are revolutionizing how healthcare services are delivered across the country. With greater flexibility, high standards of quality, and lower overall costs, patients are embracing the technological advances that are propelling progress. When considering legislation regarding teledentistry, leaders should be thoughtful in their approach to ensure that patients receive the highest possible benefit from innovations.

Legislation should enhance, not diminish, consumers' access to dental care by:

- 1. Enabling the use of technology to treat dental patients remotely.**
- 2. Being technology neutral to enable and future innovation.**
- 3. Keeping the standard of care and licensure requirements the same for teledentistry and traditional practices.**
- 4. Eliminating artificial barriers to care.**

- **Enabling the use of remote technology.** Technological progress in the past decade has allowed for safe and effective healthcare to be delivered via asynchronous, secure store-and-forward technologies. Many states already have comprehensive telehealth statutes that allow for physicians to diagnose illnesses and prescribe treatments remotely. States should work with stakeholders to accomplish similar legislative goals regarding teledentistry.
- **Technology Neutral Legislation.** Technological changes happen rapidly; therefore, legislation should consider the quickly accelerating nature of healthcare innovation by remaining as technologically neutral as possible. This will allow for continued progress and innovation that will drive down costs, increase access, and improve quality for patients across the country.
- **Parity in licensing and standard of care.** Dentists utilizing teledentistry are licensed practitioners in good standing with their state licensing boards. They are experienced, professional, and deeply concerned with the safety of the patient – just as all dentists are. Accordingly, dentists utilizing teledentistry platforms should be held to an equivalent standard as their colleagues in traditional dentistry.
- **Remove artificial barriers to teledentistry.** Legislatures and regulatory Boards should ensure that they do not erect artificial barriers (such as unnecessary licensure requirements, differing standards between traditional and teledentistry, arbitrary geographic barriers, etc.) while also eliminating any barriers that may already be codified.