Teledentistry in Texas

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1. Texas Laws

A closer look at Teledentistry in Texas

➔ Texas Dental Practice Act
   What can we legally do?

➔ Application of Teledentistry
   How can we utilize teledentistry in Texas?

➔ Legal Considerations
   Other considerations for utilizing teledentistry.
Does a teledentistry exam done in Texas qualify as an exam? Yes, No, Maybe?

Texas
With Texas notoriously restrictive laws, the answer will not be surprising.
Texas Dental Practice Act

Title 22, Part 5, Chapter 108, Subchapter A, Rule 108.8
Records of the Dentist

(b)(2)(C) Documentation of the findings of a tactile and visual examination of the soft and hard tissues of the oral cavity...
A licensed dentist may delegate a service, task, or procedure to a **dental hygienist** without having had an exam within a year if

**Exemptions**

- 2 years experience
- Service provided @
  - nursing facility
  - school-based health center
  - community health center
So what can WE do in Texas?

MORE THAN YOU THINK!!
NYU College of Dentistry, incorporates Teledentistry technology into their curriculum.
Dental School Application

Outreach Programs
NYU College of Dentistry, NYU

Interprofessional Collaboration-
speech therapists, pediatricians, nurses, physician assistants.
NYU College of Dentistry, NYU

AEGD- Distance Learning
NYU Lutheran of Dental Medicine, NY
Interprofessional Consultation/Referrals

- Emergency Rooms
- Pediatricians
- Pregnancy Centers
- Nursing Homes
How can a Texas dentist apply this technology?

Imagination
Consultations & Referrals

Collaboration

- Ortho-phase-1 interceptive care
- Minor Emergencies

Consultations & Referrals

- Endo.
- Oral Surgery
- Pathology
2. Legality

By the end of this section, you will have a better understanding legal considerations in Teledentistry.

➔ **Licensure**
   Is there a license to practice teledentistry?

➔ **HIPAA**
   Major concern for safeguarding patient information.

➔ **Legal Issues**
   What are the legal risks?
Licensure - dentists can only practice in states that you are licensed in.

There are **TWENTY** states with restrict laws, **TEXAS** is one of them.

**FYI**

There is no special license to utilize teledentistry.
HIPAA

Patient information must be stored and shared through a secure server. Electronic devices being used to record or store patient information should be encrypted and password protected.

Teledent

Is a Teledentistry software that securely stores patient information.
Legal issues

“Dentists are at great legal risk when practicing teledentistry because one can be sued from anywhere Web-based information can be accessed.”
“As a general rule, the policy would protect you for professional activities that are considered to be **normal** and **customary** according to the rules and regulations of the state licensing board.”
Billing

In Texas, one cannot bill for an exam when accessing a patient through telecommunication.

Codes

- D9995-Synchronous
- D9996-Asynchronous
Through teledentistry we can REDUCE traditional barriers & foster EQUALITY of care.

Tip
Contact your legislator
References


References


Image 1: http://www.asdablog.com/the-ethics-of-teledentistry/
References


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