

Teledentistry FAQ

For Physicians and Behavioral Health Providers

What is teledentistry?

Teledentistry, a subset of telehealth, refers to the provision of dental care aided by virtual technologies. Dental care, care supervision, and education can be delivered to patients who are in a physical location that is different from where the supervising dentist is located.

Teledentistry enables patient-centered dental care for those who need it most, in a variety of care settings, and without the need for a traditional dental clinic. When a teledentistry visit precedes a first dental office visit—and the diagnostic and treatment planning has been completed—the dentist is able to provide restorative and/or surgical care at the first dental office visit. Further, virtual patient/provider connections enable ongoing reinforcement of at-home care behaviors that account for the largest aspect of maintaining good oral health.

What dental services may be performed via teledentistry?

Dental services possible through teledentistry include:

- Oral health assessments, exams, intra-oral pictures, and digital x-rays
- Diagnoses and treatment planning
- Preventive care such as dental sealants, fluoride varnish, silver diamine fluoride, and teeth cleaning
- Anticipatory guidance and counseling on daily home care

How does teledentistry add value to patient practice?

Many people do not receive the dental care they need to be optimally healthy. Poor oral health negatively impacts people throughout their lives, and can result in serious health consequences for children, people with chronic diseases, people with behavioral health conditions, the elderly, and women who are pregnant.

More people engage with primary care than with dental care. Interprofessional provider partnerships leveraging teledentistry solve for some of the biggest barriers by expanding access to care, increasing patient convenience and satisfaction (including those with dental phobia/anxiety), and lowering costs. Further, teledentistry is growing as a preferred care option for higher-risk and/or medically fragile patients who should limit environmental exposures.

Visit these resources for additional information about teledentistry:

- [DentaQuest – Leveraging Teledentistry to Close Gaps in Oral Health](#)
- [Expanding Oral Health: Teledentistry](#)

Learn more

PacificSource encourages healthcare providers to consider integrating oral health into patient practice, including teledentistry if appropriate.

To be connected with a Dental Care Organization to discuss partnership interests, contact PacificSource's Oregon Provider Service team:

Phone

Direct (541) 246-1457

Toll-free (855) 247-7575

Email

ORProviderService@
pacificsource.com

[PacificSource.com](#)

