

**650—27.12(153) Teledentistry.** This rule establishes the standards of practice for teledentistry.

**27.12(1) Definition.**

“*Teledentistry*” means a dentist is providing or supervising dental services using technology when the patient is in another location.

**27.12(2) Teledentistry authorized.** A dentist may utilize teledentistry to provide dental care to patients located in Iowa. A dentist shall not provide dental care to a patient located in Iowa based solely on an Internet questionnaire consisting of a static set of questions that have been answered by the patient.

**27.12(3) License or registration required.** A dentist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant who uses teledentistry for a patient located in Iowa shall hold an active Iowa license or registration issued by the board.

**27.12(4) General requirements.** The standard of dental care is the same whether a patient is seen in person or through a teledentistry encounter. The use of teledentistry is not an expansion of the scope of practice for dental hygienists or dental assistants. A dentist who uses teledentistry shall utilize evidence-based standards of practice and practice guidelines to ensure patient safety, quality of care, and positive outcomes.

**27.12(5) Informed consent.** When teledentistry will be utilized, a dentist shall ensure informed consent covers the following additional information:

a. A description of the types of dental care services provided via teledentistry, including limitations on services;

b. The identity, contact information, practice location, licensure, credentials, and qualifications of all dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants involved in the patient’s dental care, which must be publicly displayed on a website or provided in writing to the patient; and

c. Precautions for technological failures or emergency situations.

**27.12(6) Examination.** A dentist may use teledentistry to conduct an examination for a new patient or for a new diagnosis if the examination is conducted in accordance with evidence-based standards of practice to sufficiently establish an informed diagnosis. A dentist shall not conduct a dental examination using teledentistry if the standard of care necessitates an in-person dental examination. Once an examination has been conducted, a dentist may delegate the services to be provided.

**27.12(7) Follow-up and emergency care.** A dentist who uses teledentistry shall have adequate knowledge of the nature and availability of local dental resources to provide appropriate follow-up care to a patient following a teledentistry encounter. A dentist shall refer a patient to an acute care facility or an emergency department when referral is necessary for the safety of the patient or in the case of emergency.

**27.12(8) Supervision.** With the exception of administering local anesthesia or nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia, or performing expanded functions, a dentist may delegate to and supervise services to be performed by a dental hygienist or dental assistant.

a. When direct supervision of a dental hygienist or dental assistant is required, a dentist may provide direct supervision using live video. A dentist is not required to directly supervise the entire delivery of dental care but must appear upon request using live video with a response time similar to what would be expected if the dentist were present in the treatment facility.

b. When general supervision of a dental hygienist or dental assistant is required, a dentist may utilize teledentistry.

c. When public health supervision is utilized, a supervising dentist may authorize use of teledentistry.

**27.12(9) Patient records.** A teledentistry encounter shall be clearly characterized as such in a patient record.

**27.12(10) Privacy and security.** All dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants shall ensure that the use of teledentistry complies with the privacy and security requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

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