

# Teledentistry Lifting and Learning Together While Improving Access to Care

David Stewart, DDS, MPH/HSA  
Staci Stout, RDH, BSDH

# Objectives

- Describe how teledentistry has been used to help vulnerable populations gain access to preventive dental services
- Evaluate how collaborative agreements between the dental team can be used to provide preventive dental services to vulnerable populations through teledentistry
- Analyze how teledentistry can be used to teach hygiene and dental students
- Theorize advantages and barriers to using teledentistry as an educational tool and how to overcome the barriers



# Introduction

## **David Stewart, DDS, MPH/HSA, Pediatric Dentist**

- 20+ years in private practice, education, and public health dentistry
- Assistant Professor Roseman College of Dental Medicine
- Attending Faculty Member at Primary Children's Pediatric Dental Postgraduate Program

## **Staci Stout, RDH, BSDH**

- Over 30 years in dentistry
- Past President Utah Dental Hygienists' Association
- Salt Lake Community College DH Program Adjunct Faculty
- Public Health Dental Hygienist
- Teledentistry Innovator of the Year Award

Wednesday May 4, 2022



# Disclosure

Speaker agrees that neither they nor members of their immediate family have any financial relationships with commercial entities that may be relevant to their presentation.





# Teledentistry in Practice

**Thinking of your own experiences, what value  
do you see in teledentistry?**

# Senior Care

Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Long-Term Care





# Senior Care

Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Long-Term Care



# School-Based Programs

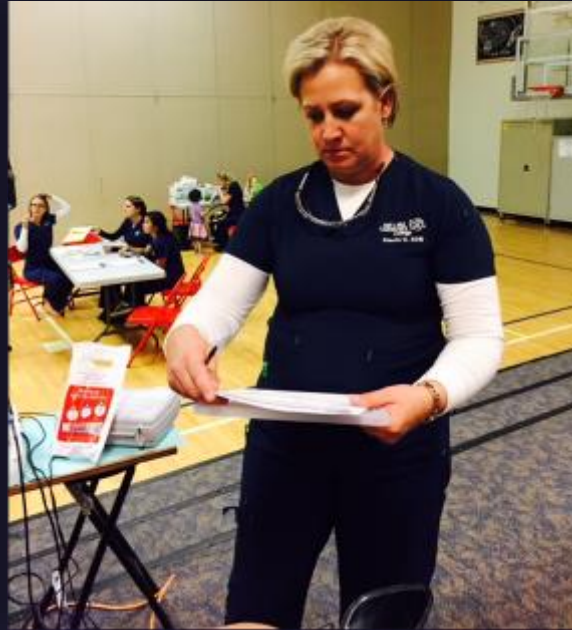
Elementary, Jr. High, High School, Head-Start Programs





# School-Based Programs

Elementary, Jr. High, High School, Head-Start Programs



# Sequence of Data Gathering





# Synchronous Teledentistry

## D9995- Real Time Video

ADA: Live, two-way interaction between a person (patient, caregiver, or provider) and a provider using audiovisual telecommunications technology. Immediate feedback and treatment plan formulated.





# Asynchronous Teledentistry

## D9996- Store and Forward

ADA: Transmission of recorded health information (ie. Radiographs, photos, video, digital impressions and photomicrographs of patients) through a secure electronic communications system to a practitioner, who uses the information to evaluate a patient's condition or render a service outside of a real-time or live interaction. The dentist reviews the information at a later date to provide a diagnosis and create a treatment plan.



# Dental/Dental Hygiene Students



# Collaboration is Key



## Collaborative Agreement for Dental Hygiene Practice in a Public Health Setting

It is agreed by the undersigned parties that the *Hygienist* will:

- practice within the scope of dental hygiene practice as provided by Utah law
- practice in one or more of these public health settings: an individual's residence if the individual is unable to leave the residence; a school as part of a school-based program; a nursing home; an assisted living or long-term care facility; a community health center; a federally-qualified health center; a mobile dental health program that employs a dentist licensed and residing in Utah.
- assure that *Dentist* is available in person, by phone, or by electronic communication
- discuss conditions of medically compromised patients with *Dentist*
- not use local anesthesia or nitrous oxide without a dentist present
- maintain current CPR training
- discuss liability insurance with *Dentist*
- obtain from each patient an informed consent which provides that treatment by *Hygienist* is not a substitute for a dental examination by a dentist
- refer a patient with a dental need beyond *Hygienist's* scope of practice to a dentist
- report to *Dentist* the hygiene assessment and treatment that is rendered
- maintain dental hygiene treatment records

### Parties

*Dentist:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Utah licensee and resident

*Hygienist:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Utah licensee and resident

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_  
This agreement will remain valid for one year.

References:  
UCA 58-69-102(6), 58-69-102(8), 58-69-501(2), and 58-69-801(4)

Sample drafted by the Utah Dental Association June 1, 2015

# Collaborative Agreement Between Dental Teams

# Collaboration Outside of the Dental Team



# Connecting Providers

**1**

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Clear  
communication

**2**

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Give patients  
resources quickly

**3**

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Seamless  
transition

**4**

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Shared electronic  
health record

**5**

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Better experience  
for patient



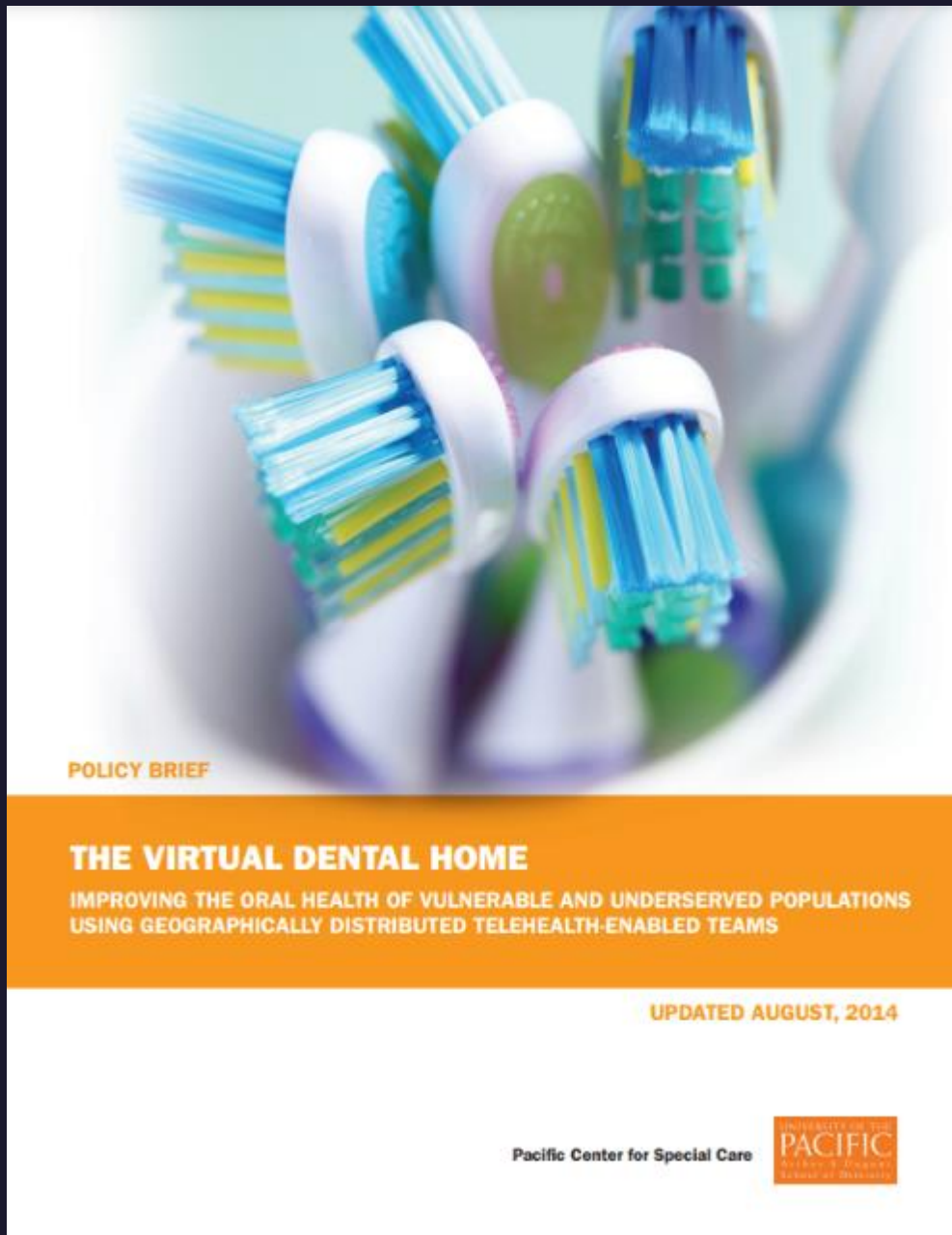


“Although 43% of U.S. dentists participate in Medicaid or CHIP for child services in 2019, only about 20% of the children under age three enrolled in Medicaid get a dental visit for preventive services. The situation for adults participating in Medicaid is even more complicated.”

Escontrías OA, Skovran C, Stewart DCL. Teledentistry: Innovation to Improving Access and Delivery to Oral Health Care Services in Dental Education. ADEA Policy Research Series. Issue 4, October 2021.

# Early Head Start





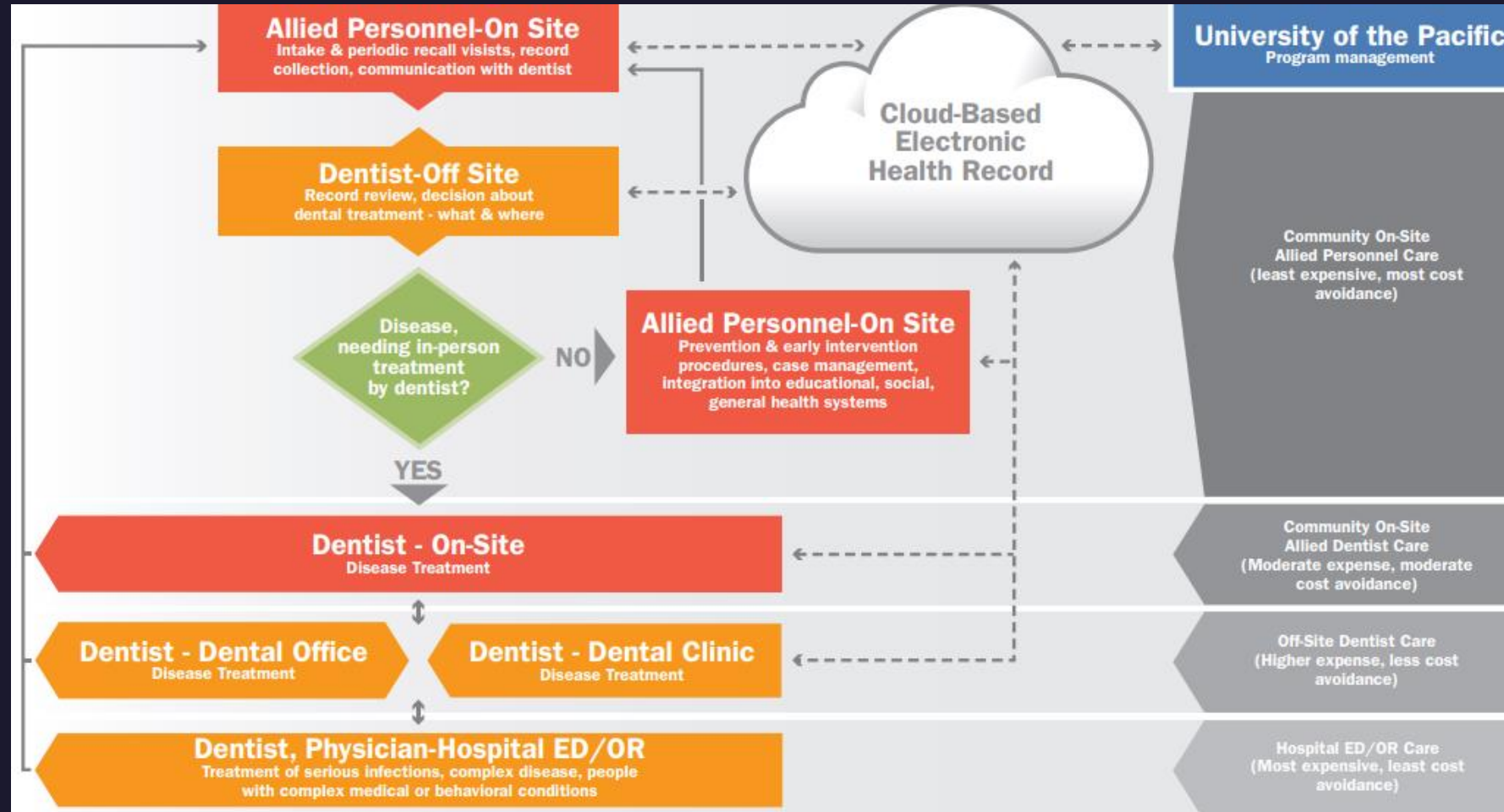
Bringing "virtual dental homes" to schools, nursing homes and long-term care facilities can keep people healthy -- reducing school absenteeism, lessening the need for parents to leave work to care for an ailing child, and helping to prevent suffering for millions of people who have no access to a dentist, a six-year study by University of the Pacific demonstrates.

This is a safe, effective way to bring care to people who need it. -Dr. Paul Glassman

University of the Pacific. "'Virtual dental homes' prove safe, effective, shows six-year California study: Teledentistry can bring dental care to people who lack it, say researchers." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 2 August 2016. <[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/08/160802151321.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/08/160802151321.htm)>



# The Virtual Dental Home Concept Model



Pacific Center for Special Care, University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, ©2012

Policy Brief: The Virtual Dental Home--Improving the Oral Health of Vulnerable and Underserved Populations Using Geographically Distributed Telehealth-Enabled Teams. Updated August 2014 Pacific Center for Special Care

The ideal is a private dental office reaching into areas of dental need through teledentistry and collaboration with a hygienist to create virtual dental homes for patients that otherwise are not being seen in dental offices. This allows diagnostic and preventive services to be delivered to those individuals that are not accessing dental care. The services that need to be performed in a surgical setting can be scheduled in the dental office.

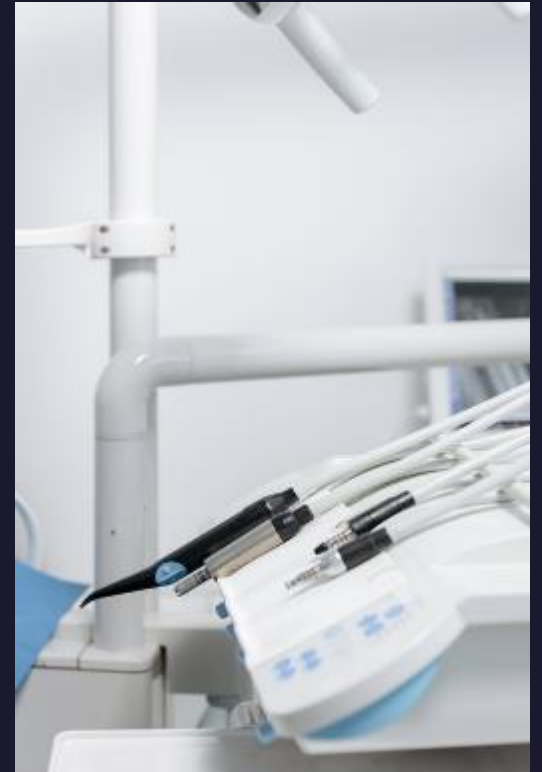


Image: Cottonbro



Image: Mary Taylor



Image: Marc Mueller



Image: Mattias Zommer

# Connecting Dental/Dental Hygiene Students

Helping the oral health care providers of tomorrow to get vision through experience in their training programs today.



# Talk About It....

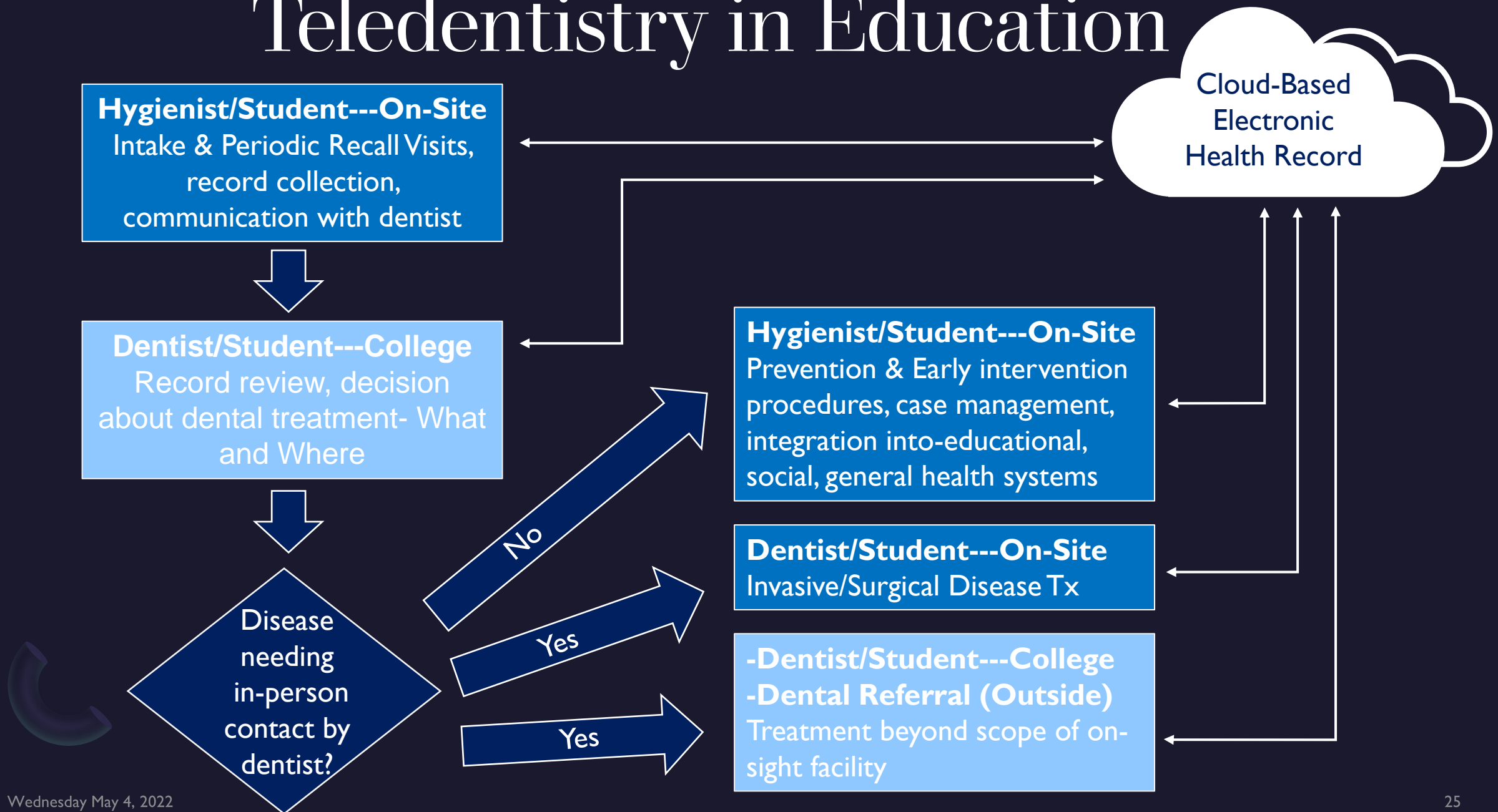


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# ...Or DO IT



# Teledentistry in Education



# Teledentistry in Dental Education



Image: Andrea Piacquadio

**D1 Students:** In the field with hygienists collecting data and providing preventive services

**D2, D3 Students:** Diagnose and treatment plan with faculty mentor at the dental school

**D3, D4 Students:** Provide treatment planned services at the school dental clinic



Image: Mikhail Nilov



# Barriers to Overcome to Use Teledentistry in Educational Settings





# Summary

Teledentistry is one tool to help close the care gap for unserved and vulnerable populations. Students experiencing teledentistry during their educational training are prepared with additional tools to close the care gaps specific to the communities that they will have opportunity to serve in the future.

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.

– Walt Disney





# Thank You

Staci Stout

[staci.stout@slcc.edu](mailto:staci.stout@slcc.edu)

David Stewart

[dstewart@roseman.edu](mailto:dstewart@roseman.edu)

