Teledentistry
Lifting and Learning Together
While Improving Access to Care

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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 (i.e. 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:

Sample drafted by the Utah Dental Association June 1, 2015
Collaboration Outside of the Dental Team
Connecting Providers

1. Clear communication
2. Give patients resources quickly
3. Seamless transition
4. Shared electronic health record
5. 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.”
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

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.
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....                  ...Or DO IT
Teledentistry in Education

Hygienist/Student---On-Site
Intake & Periodic Recall Visits, record collection, communication with dentist

Dentist/Student---College
Record review, decision about dental treatment- What and Where

Disease needing in-person contact by dentist?

No

Hygienist/Student---On-Site
Prevention & Early intervention procedures, case management, integration into educational, social, general health systems

Yes

Dentist/Student---On-Site
Invasive/Surgical Disease Tx

-Dentist/Student---College
-Dental Referral (Outside)
Treatment beyond scope of on-site facility

Cloud-Based Electronic Health Record
Teledentistry in Dental Education

**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
Barriers to Overcome to Use Teledentistry in Educational Settings

Assessment of your institution and community’s oral health needs

- Teledentistry partners/advocates within your institution:
  - Administration
  - Faculty Members

Teledentistry partners/advocates within your community.

- Teledentistry friendly legislation, code, and state practice acts

Teledentistry plan specific to your institution and community’s needs
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

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