

Nationwide Survey of Teledentistry Regulations

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Why does Teledentistry Matter?

A Quick Review of the Literature

We have a dental access/utilization problem in the United States

Access to dental care disparities persist in the United States, with a myriad of reasons behind them: coverage gaps, location, employment status, and lack of time, among other issues. Dental care utilization has stagnated, even among the insured. Emergency rooms nationwide are overburdened with patients presenting with preventable dental conditions. It is vital that we eliminate barriers to access for patients.

Less than half of all Americans report seeing a dentist in a given year. Less than 30% of adults between the ages of 19-34 report seeing a dentist in the last year.

Source: https://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Science%20and%20Research/HPI/Files/HPIgraphic_1117_2.pdf?la=en

Every 14 seconds, someone visits a hospital emergency department for a dental condition in the United States. 2.2 million hospital emergency department visits are made annually at a cost of \$2.4 billion in the United States alone.

Source: https://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Science%20and%20Research/HPI/Files/HPIgraphic_0819_1.pdf?la=en

It is estimated that up to 80% of emergency dental visits could be diverted to a community setting.

Source: http://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Science%20and%20Research/HPI/Files/HPIBrief_0814_1.ashx

Telehealth is the future

Telehealth is becoming more widely accepted by patients and providers alike. The rise of telehealth as another viable care delivery option calls for responsible legislation that promotes access and protects patients.

It is the fastest growing alternative health care delivery option in the United States--the US telemedicine market is expected to reach \$64 billion by 2025.

Source: <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digital/telehealth-53-growing-faster-any-other-place-care>

20% of American already use online resources or mobile apps as their first health resource, and 85% of Americans would consider a telemedicine service if it were available at an affordable cost.

Source: 2019 Unitedhealthcare Consumer Sentiment Survey

Telemedicine visits each have a net healthcare cost savings ranging from \$19-121.

Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30100333>

CDC recommendations for COVID-19 highlight another important application of telehealth as an effective triaging tool, by "leveraging telehealth to direct people to the right level of healthcare for their medical needs." This is especially important during global health crises when healthcare providers and resources can be stretched exceptionally thin.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cdc-in-action.html>

Comprehensive and Ethical Treatment Planning

By decoupling the comprehensive exam from any needed treatment, teledentistry models are able to provide ethical care that can alleviate concerns about production-focused treatment planning and potential overtreatment.

A study in Washington found that "39 percent of adults received one or more replacement restorations in nondecayed teeth with satisfactory fillings at baseline, while 18 percent of adults had one or more restorations placed in teeth with no decay and fillings."

Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9150060>

Teledentistry fills a need in dentistry

Teledentistry represents a way for patients to more easily access and develop relationships with their dental care providers. When properly managed, a teledentistry team can provide high quality, cost-effective care equivalent to in-person care.

The beneficial outcomes of teledentistry services include

1. Significantly shorter waits to obtain specialty consultations;
2. Higher treatment completion rates;
3. Lower no-show rates for appointments;
4. Improved work-flow efficiencies for patients, providers, and support staff.

Teledentistry has substantial potential to serve populations with historically low access to care:

1. People who reside in assisted living facilities, group homes, or nursing homes
2. Patients with special needs
3. Rural populations

Source: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05102>

"Teledentistry exams were shown to be comparable to in person exams for both children and adults when screening for dental caries."

Source: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1357633X16689433>

Challenges/Drawbacks and Looking Ahead

Looking forward, it is important that we continue to encourage all members of the dental care team to work at the top of their scopes of practice to provide quality care and improve efficiency. Teledentistry represents one piece of a larger shift within dentistry to move towards more cost-effective, value-based care.

Challenges include

1. Dissimilarities in state and federal laws
2. Limited reimbursement
3. Logistical issues
4. Concerns about data quality and security.
5. Most providers do not offer telehealth services

Source: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05102>

Source: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05101>

More autonomous dental hygienist scope of practice has:

1. A positive association with population oral health.
2. A positive and significant impact on the use of oral health services in a state
3. A negative correlation with the number of people having teeth removed because of decay or disease.

Source: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2016.0807>

-Parity of coverage is associated with faster growth of telehealth use.

Source: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05101>

"As payers of oral health care move toward value-based purchasing and as consolidation of dental care providers continues, traditional models for the provision of that care will face pressure to change." Teledentistry figures to be a growing byproduct of this continuing pressure.

Source: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2016.0844>

Interpreting this Guide

“Teledentistry Laws” has been broken up into three subgroups:

None: No teledentistry regulations exist in this state.

Limited: Teledentistry has been defined or mentioned in another bill, but regulations and guidelines regarding the practice of teledentistry do not exist.

Extensive: Regulations outlining the practice of teledentistry in the state exist, often in the form of a Teledentistry Act or similar document.

“Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit” has been broken up into four subgroups, as defined by the Center for Healthcare Strategies:

None: No adult dental benefit exists

Emergency Only: Relief of pain under defined emergency situations.

Limited: Fewer than 100 diagnostic, preventive, and minor restorative procedures recognized by the American Dental Association (ADA); per-person annual expenditure for care is \$1,000 or less.

Extensive: A comprehensive mix of services, including more than 100 diagnostic, preventive, and minor and major restorative procedures approved by the ADA; per-person annual expenditure cap is at least \$1,000.

“Medicaid Telehealth Coverage” refers to the types of telehealth modalities covered in a state. The three categories covered here are: *live video, store-and-forward, and remote patient monitoring*. These modalities are defined in the “Definitions” section of the Example Regulatory Language section of this guide. **Please note that dentistry is not always covered within a state’s Medicaid telehealth regulations; please check your individual state regulations to confirm.**

“Telehealth Parity Law” has two components: Coverage and Reimbursement parity. These laws apply to commercial insurers.

Coverage Parity requires a commercial insurer to cover a health care service delivered via telehealth if the insurer would cover the same service if it were provided in-person.

Reimbursement Parity requires a commercial insurer to cover a health care service at the same rate that it would cover the service if it were provided in-person.

“Direct Access Hygiene” refers to direct access hygiene options in each state, which include collaborative agreements, public health dental hygiene, and independent dental hygienists. Dental therapists and other similar mid level providers were not included in this list.

“Mobile Permit” refers to the existence of a mobile permit application in the state. Mobile permits usually cover one or both of mobile clinics and portable dentistry.

Mobile clinics are standalone clinics located in large vehicles designed to bring healthcare services to different areas within a community.

Portable dentistry uses transportable equipment that is designed to be placed on a foundation when it reaches its destination.

“Radiation” refers to any radiation regulations for dental hygienists using a portable, handheld x-ray unit. This could include an operator dosimeter, lead vest, or both. Note that in-office requirements may differ from portable requirements in some states.

“Procedures” are defined here as procedures that a licensed dental hygienist without direct access privileges could perform under general supervision. Please note that most general supervision laws include stipulations such as:

1. The dentist must perform a clinical exam at regular intervals, often every year. Please check with your individual state regulatory authority to confirm that an exam conducted via teledentistry is considered a “clinical exam”.
2. The dentist must give written standing orders to the hygienist, who acts in accordance with these orders.
3. The dentist should be available for consultation and is responsible for all delegated procedures performed by the hygienists.

“Eligible Settings” refers to any eligible settings a licensed hygienist without direct access privileges is eligible to work under general supervision.

“Special Requirements” refers to any unique requirements that affect licensed hygienists working under general supervision or via teledentistry in their state.

“Hiring Requirements” refers to any clinical experience requirements for a licensed hygienist to be eligible to work under general supervision without direct access privileges.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	None	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$750, Separate Mobile and Portable Applications
Radiation	Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	X
Scaling and Root Planing	X
X-Rays	X
Charting	X
Sealants	X
Fluoride	X
Local Anesthesia	X

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	Dental hygienists and expanded duty dental assistants shall work only under the direct supervision of a duly licensed dentist practicing in this state.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Limited Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Collaborative Agreement	4,000 hours in last 5 years required Up to 5 per dentist
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✓

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations	Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Extensive
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward, Remote Patient Monitoring
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only
Direct Access Hygiene	Affiliated Practice Agreement 3-5 years practice, 500 clinical hours in last 2 years, 12 hrs CE, BLS
Mobile Permit	Yes No Fee
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✓	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✓*	Patient is 18, no change in med hx, exam in last 12 months, written orders

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On a patient of record of a dentist within that dentist's office. 2. In a health care facility, long-term care facility, public health agency or institution, public or private school or homebound setting on patients who have been examined by a dentist within the previous year. 3. In an inpatient hospital setting
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	Rules developed (Article XXI), yet to be adopted
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Collaborative Agreement	
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$5,000 Does not apply to Portable
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✗
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	General supervision is allowed only in dental clinics, community health centers or government sponsored dental facilities.
Special Requirements	1. RDH working under general supervision not to exceed two (2) consecutive days. 2. Supervising dentist must have examined the patient(s) not more than twelve (12) months prior
Hiring Requirements	Hygienists must have one (1) full year of full-time service.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Extensive	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity Starting Jan 2021
Direct Access Hygiene	Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice	2,000 hours in last 36 months, bachelor's degree, 150 hrs RDHAP course
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$100 Does not apply to Portable
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Unsupervised Dental Hygiene	Dental hygienist may also own a dental hygiene practice.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Lead Vest and Whole Body/Extremity Dosimeters Required	
Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✓	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✓	
Other Requirements		
Eligible Settings	None Specified.	
Special Requirements	None.	
Hiring Requirements	None.	

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	No	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	2 years experience required.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeters required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Limited	Defined in Dental Practice Act.
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	None	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Lead Vest Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The office of the licensed dentist 2. Any public school 3. Other public institution
Special Requirements	A second office employee shall be present in the treatment facility at all times, for safety and security reasons.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations	Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only
Direct Access Hygiene	None
Mobile Permit	No
Radiation	Lead Vest/Dosimeter Required

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	Health Access Settings	Dentist or physician must give medical clearance.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Dosimeter required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	1. Licensed public and private health facilities; 2. Other public institutions of the state and federal government; 3. Public and private educational institutions; 4. The home of a nonambulatory patient 5. Other places in accordance with the rules of the board.
Special Requirements	AEDs required at all dental offices regardless of procedure/anesthesia.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Limited	Mentioned in Medicaid Guide for Dental Services
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	
Mobile Permit	No	Dental hygiene services provided in mobile dental vans shall always be provided under direct supervision.
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✗
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements

Eligible Settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Public Settings. Private dental office if clinically examined by dentist during initial visit, dentist sees patient every 12 months, patient notified in advance.
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A dentist may only authorize up to four dental hygienists at one time A dentist authorizing dental hygiene services shall practice dentistry in a physical and operational dental office located in this state within 50 miles of the setting in which the dental hygiene services are provided
Hiring Requirements	<p>Two years experience. Compliant with continuing education and CPR requirements.</p>

Regulations	Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity
Direct Access Hygiene	None
Mobile Permit	No
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	General supervision is allowed only in public health settings, including dental services in a legally incorporated eleemosynary dental dispensary or infirmary, private school, welfare center, hospital, nursing home, adult day care center or assisted living facility, mental institution, nonprofit health clinic, or the State or any county.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Extensive	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	Extended Access Endorsement	1,000 hrs in last 2 years.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✓

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	Dentists who provide any telehealth services must physically practice within seventy-five (75) miles of the patient’s location.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Limited	Defined in Dental Practice Act
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Limited Coverage	Only has requirements if an insurer chooses to cover telehealth
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	2 years or 4,000 hours, 42 hours of additional course work, public health supervision agreement.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	General supervision is allowed only in dental clinics, community health centers or government sponsored dental facilities.
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The number of dental hygienists practicing in a dental office shall not exceed 4 times the number of dentists practicing in the office. All dental offices that administer anesthesia or sedation must have at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) on the premises at all times.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Access Practice Agreement	2 years, 2,000 hours experience under direct supervision
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$200 initial fee, \$100 renewal fee every 2 years
Radiation	Lead Vest Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✓

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None specified. Different general supervision standing order requirements based on if in dental office or other setting.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	At least an average of twenty (20) hours per week, at least two (2) years of active practice under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Extensive	Rules outlining standards of practice
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	3 years clinical experience.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✓	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✗	A dentist may provide direct supervision using live video.


Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations	Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only
Direct Access Hygiene	Extended Care Permit I, II & III I: 1,200 hrs or 2 yrs teaching II: 1,600 hrs or 2 yrs teaching, ECPII course III: 2,000 hrs and ECPIII course
Mobile Permit	Yes \$500
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A hygienist may work under "general supervision" as long as the patient is not a new patient. 2. The dentist must complete a "hands in mouth" examination to bill for any form of evaluation - comprehensive, periodic, or problem focused.
Hiring Requirements	Hygienists must have one (1) full year of full-time service.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	Teledentistry Committee on State Dental Board
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	2 years and 3,000 hrs experience, 3 hr medical emergency course, 5 hrs public health CE
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Lead Vest and Dosimeter required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy		
Scaling and Root Planing		
X-Rays		
Charting		
Sealants		
Fluoride		
Local Anesthesia		CODA approved course and Local Anesthesia Registration (\$50) required

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None specified.
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Supervision Registration Application (\$50 fee) 2. No more than fifteen (15) consecutive full business days under general supervision 3. Only treat patients who are ASA I or ASA II
Hiring Requirements	<p>2 years and 3,000 hours of experience. 3 hour medical emergencies course.</p>

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Limited Coverage/Full Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$250
Radiation	Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✗
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a public institution supervised by a Louisiana licensed dentist. 2. a nonprofit entity that meets the statutory, regulatory and program requirements for grantees. 3. a school that has supervision by a Louisiana licensed dentist. 4. an office owned by a dentist or dentists licensed in Louisiana.
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No patient can be seen twice consecutively under general supervision. 2. An examination fee must not be charged if a patient is seen under general supervision. 3. No general supervision for more than five consecutive business days or for more than 20 total days in any calendar year. Does not apply to schools or public institutions. 4. Prior to tx via portable dentistry, a surgical pre-procedural rinse shall be administered to the patient. 5. Portable dentistry: designated room of at least 100 square feet where other children aren't present.
Hiring Requirements	Hygienists must have one (1) full year of full-time practice and CPR Certification.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Limited	*Teledentistry not authorized during COVID-19 pandemic
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	Approved on a case by case basis, supervision agreement
	Independent Practice Dental Hygienist	2,000 hrs clinical practice, written practice agreement
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Dosimeter Required	
Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✓	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✗	
Other Requirements		
Eligible Settings	None Specified.	
Special Requirements	None.	
Hiring Requirements	None.	

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Dosimeter Required	A hand-held unit can be used for non-routine purposes. A log is provided on which the facility must indicate why the hand-held unit was used. Use of a hand-held device in a school or group environment for screening is prohibited

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In any 3-month period the number of hours a dental hygienist works without a licensed dentist on the premises must be less than 60 percent of the dental hygienist’s total hours 2. Written agreement between the supervising dentist and the dental hygienist 3. No more than 2 dental hygienists to work under a dentist’s general supervision at any given time.
Hiring Requirements	1,500 hours of dental hygiene clinical practice in direct patient care.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	3 years FT clinical experience in a public health setting
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$180
Radiation	Lead Vest Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Dental Prevention Program	Application for designation as grantee health agency.
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$270
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Collaborative Agreement	Completion of a course on medical emergencies.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Lead vest/apron required	
Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✓	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✓	
Other Requirements		
Eligible Settings	None Specified.	
Special Requirements	None	
Hiring Requirements	None	

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$300
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	
Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✗	
Scaling and Root Planing	✗	
X-Rays	✗	
Charting	✗	
Sealants	✗	
Fluoride	✗	
Local Anesthesia	✗	
Other Requirements		
Eligible Settings	Dental hygienists employed by the Mississippi State Board of Health or public school boards may perform oral hygiene instruction and screening or making public demonstrations of dental hygiene for educational purposes under general supervision.	
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The work of dental hygienists and dental assistants while working in the office of a regularly licensed and registered dentist shall at all times be under the direct supervision of the dentist All offices must have an AED 	
Hiring Requirements	None	

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	3 years of experience.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	
Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✓	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✗	
Other Requirements		
Eligible Settings	None Specified.	
Special Requirements	None.	
Hiring Requirements	None.	

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Limited Access Permit	2,400 hrs in last 3 years or 3,000 hrs total with 350 each of last 2 years. LAP application (\$50).
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	A dentist shall not employ, supervise or otherwise use more dental hygienists than the dentist can reasonably supervise in keeping with the dentist's ethical and professional responsibilities.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	3,000 hours experience in at least 4 of last 5 years.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	To practice telehealth in Nebraska, a physician must be enrolled as a Medicaid provider (unclear if dentists also apply here).
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	Public Health Endorsement from state board.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Lead Vest and Whole Body/Extremity Dosimeters Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✓	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✓*	* Only in Public Health Setting

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Certified Public Health Dental Hygienist	Bachelor's degree and 6 hours in community dental health; MPH; or specified courses and examination
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Lead Vest and Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations	Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity
Direct Access Hygiene	None
Mobile Permit	No
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	The licensed dental hygienist treats only existing patients of record, except for school settings
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Telemedicine services shall be provided using interactive, real-time, two-way communication technologies. 2. Each licensed dentist may supervise no more than a total of three licensed dental hygienists at one time in any setting. 3. A second employee trained to implement emergency protocol is present in the facility when patient care is rendered. 4. Have equipment to maintain adult/pediatric airways and ambu bag (bag-valve-mask resuscitator).
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Limited	Defined in Practice Act.
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Collaborative Practice	2,400 hrs in last 18 months or 3,000 hrs in 2 of past 3 years. Up to 3 hygienists per dentist.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Lead Vest and Whole Body/Extremity Dosimeters Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✓ *

If hygienist has administered local anesthesia for at least 2 years/at least 20 cases; written prescription by a dentist; emergency medical services are available.

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	Teledentistry defined as use of health information technology in "real-time", implying requirement for synchronous/live video teledentistry.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Limited	Orthodontic Teledentistry Consumer Protection Act
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Collaborative Practice	CPR Certification, Written agreement.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	Dosimeter Required in New York City.

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗








Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	All dental facilities shall have an automatic external defibrillator (AED) or other defibrillator at the facility.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	Public Health Dental Hygiene training offered through DHHS, written agreement
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	The services are performed in nursing homes; rest homes; long-term care facilities; rural and community clinics operated by Board-approved nonprofits; rural and community clinics operated by federal, State, county, or local governments; and any other facilities identified by the Office of Rural Health and approved by the Board as serving dental access shortage areas.
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A dentist in private practice may not employ more than two dental hygienists at the same time in clinical dental hygiene positions 2. Annual report of # patients treated outside of direct supervision
Hiring Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 yrs of experience or a minimum of 2,000 hours under the direct supervision 2. CPR certification, 6 hr each year of CE in medical emergencies 3. Designated by employing dentist as being capable of performing clinical hygiene procedures without direct supervision

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	No coverage for Medicaid Expansion patients.
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Lead Vest and Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy		
Scaling and Root Planing		Upon Direct Order
X-Rays		
Charting		
Sealants		
Fluoride		
Local Anesthesia		

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None
Hiring Requirements	None

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Extensive	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Oral Health Access Supervision Permit	1 year and 1,500 hrs, 24 CE credits in last 2 years, 8 hour board required course
Mobile Permit	No	Teledentistry Permit Required (\$20)
Radiation	Lead Vest and Dosimeter Required	
Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✗	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✗	
Other Requirements		
Eligible Settings	None Specified.	
Special Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synchronous live video required to establish pt's identity and physical location 2. No more than 3 dental hygienists working under the dentist's authorization at any time. 3. No more than 15 consecutive business days without dentist's physical presence 	
Hiring Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 1 year and a minimum of 1,500 hrs of clinical experience. 2. Medical emergencies course 3. Dentist has evaluated the dental hygienist's skills 	

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Supervision Rule Exception	2 years experience, initial appointment only, refer back to dentist after.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	A dentist may employ not more than the equivalent of three full-time dental hygienists for each dentist actively practicing in the same dental office.
Hiring Requirements	At least two (2) years experience in the practice of dental hygiene.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist	2,500 hrs and complete 40 hrs of board-approved courses or completed an approved course of study.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✓

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	3,600 hours experience, 5 hrs CE in public health.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗







Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dental facilities. Public or private institutions such as schools, hospitals, public health care agencies, nursing homes, mobile health units, and homes for juveniles, the elderly, and the handicapped. Institutions under the jurisdiction of federal, state, or local health agencies.
Special Requirements	Direct supervision of a dentist required when the patient is suffering from systemic disease which is severe, incapacitating, or life threatening.
Hiring Requirements	Hygienists must have one (1) full year of full-time service.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Hygienists	Written agreement.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	DHEC (State Employed) Hygienists	Practice under general supervision without prior examination by a dentist in limited settings
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$150
Radiation	Lead Vest and Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy		
Scaling and Root Planing		*Only in public health setting.
X-Rays		
Charting		
Sealants		*Only in public health setting.
Fluoride		
Local Anesthesia		

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Limited	Defined in Dental Practice Act.
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Collaborative Supervision	3 years and 4,000 hrs. 2,000 hrs in 2 of last 3 years. Written agreement.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Extensive	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	None	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	Sealants and topical fluoride in state/local health department settings.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	Whole Body and Extremity Dosimeters Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✗
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	Practice for not more than fifteen (15) consecutive business days under general supervision.
Hiring Requirements	One (1) year, full- time, or an equivalent amount of experience practicing dental hygiene.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	*Teledentistry not authorized during COVID-19 pandemic
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	None	RDH with 2 yrs experience can see patients up to 6 months in certain settings. Must refer back to dentist.
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$120
Radiation	Lead Vest Required*	*For Mobile Dentistry

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	Required limited physical examination shall include measurement of blood pressure and pulse/heart rate.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygiene	Written agreement.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	Work is performed on a patient who is homebound or within a hospital, nursing home, or public health agency or institution.
Special Requirements	Supervising dentist is a Utah resident.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Hygienist	3 years experience.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	1. In the office of a licensed dentist. 2. In a public or private school or public or private institution means supervision by a dentist with no less than three years experience in accordance with a general supervision agreement
Special Requirements	None
Hiring Requirements	3 years for general supervision agreement (if working outside of office). None if only working in office of a licensed dentist.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Extensive	Teledentistry Guidance Document
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Full Coverage/Reimbursement Parity	
Direct Access Hygiene	Remote Supervision	2 years and 2,500 hrs experience, written agreement.
Mobile Permit	Yes	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	RDH consents in writing to providing services.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	Extensive	"Appropriate Use of Teledentistry" Guidelines.
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video, Store and Forward, Remote Patient Monitoring	
Telehealth Parity Law	Coverage Only	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	Sealant/Fluoride Varnish Endorsement from Department of Health
	Unsupervised/Off Site Supervision	2 years clinical experience in last 5 years, written practice plan. Healthcare facilities only.
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	
Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?	
Prophy	✓	
Scaling and Root Planing	✓	
X-Rays	✓	
Charting	✓	
Sealants	✓	
Fluoride	✓	
Local Anesthesia	✓*	
		*If patient is 18, no change in medical history, dentist approval
Other Requirements		
Eligible Settings	None Specified.	
Special Requirements	The dentist must make appropriate effort to confirm the patient's identity.	
Hiring Requirements	None.	

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Emergency Only	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	2 years, 3,000 hrs clinical experience, 6 additional CE hours.
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$500
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Extensive	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	Supervision Optional in Public Health Settings	Certain settings outside of dental office, no experience requirements.
Mobile Permit	Yes	\$74
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✓
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	None Specified.
Special Requirement	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Regulations		Notes
Teledentistry Laws	None	
Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit	Limited	
Medicaid Telehealth Coverage	Live Video Only	
Telehealth Parity Law	None	
Direct Access Hygiene	Public Health Dental Hygienist	2 yrs experience, Collaborative agreement
Mobile Permit	No	
Radiation	No PPE/Dosimeter Required	

Procedures	Allowed under General Supervision?
Prophy	✓
Scaling and Root Planing	✓
X-Rays	✓
Charting	✓
Sealants	✗
Fluoride	✓
Local Anesthesia	✗

Other Requirements	
Eligible Settings	Dental hygienists may work in the private office of a licensed dentist, in the Armed Forces of the United States, in federal or state institutions, in public health settings, and nursing or retirement facilities.
Special Requirements	None.
Hiring Requirements	None.

Example Regulatory Language

Following ADA Best Practice Guidelines

Adapted from:

ADA Policy on Teledentistry.
Iowa Teledentistry Policy.
Tennessee Teledentistry Rules.
Virginia Teledentistry Regulations.
Washington Teledentistry Guidelines.
Ohio Teledentistry Reimbursement Policy.

Topics Covered: Definitions, Standard of Care, Dentist Patient Relationship, Licensure, Informed Consent, Patient Evaluation, Supervision and Scope of Practice, Prescribing, Follow Up, Patient Records/Privacy

Note: These are examples of currently passed legislation--each state will need to modify their regulations based on the needs of its residents. This document is not endorsing or recommending any specific language.

Definitions

ADA:

"Teledentistry refers to the use of telehealth systems and methodologies in dentistry. Telehealth refers to a broad variety of technologies and tactics to deliver virtual medical, health, and education services. Telehealth is not a specific service, but a collection of means to enhance care and education delivery.

Teledentistry can include patient care and education delivery using, but not limited to, the following modalities:

- 1. Live video (synchronous):** Live, two-way interaction between a person (patient, caregiver, or provider) and a provider using audiovisual telecommunications technology.
- 2. Store-and-forward (asynchronous):** Transmission of recorded health information (for example, radiographs, photographs, 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.
- 3. Remote patient monitoring (RPM):** Personal health and medical data collection from an individual in one location via electronic communication technologies, which is transmitted to a provider (sometimes via a data processing service) in a different location for use in care and related support of care.
- 4. Mobile health (mHealth):** Health care and public health practice and education supported by mobile communication devices such as cell phones, tablet computers, and personal digital assistants (PDA)."

Iowa:

"Teledentistry" means a dentist is providing or supervising dental services using technology when the patient is in another location"

Tennessee:

"Teledentistry is not an audio only telephone conversation, email/instant messaging conversation or fax. At a minimum it shall include the application of secure video conferencing or store-and-forward technology to provide or support dental care delivery by replicating the interaction of a traditional encounter between a provider and a patient. "

Virginia:

"Teledentistry" means the delivery of dentistry through the use of telehealth systems and technologies, including live, two-way interactions between a patient and a dentist holding an active license to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth using audiovisual telecommunications technology or the secure transmission of electronic health records, digital files, or medical data to a dentist holding an active unrestricted license to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth to facilitate evaluation of a patient other than as part of a real-time live interaction."

Washington:

"Teledentistry" is the practice of dentistry using enabling technology between a dentist in one location and a patient in another location with or without an intervening practitioner. It is a tool in dentistry practice, not a separate form of dentistry"

Standard of Care

ADA:

"The dentist is responsible for, and retains the authority for ensuring, the safety and quality of services provided to patients using teledentistry technologies and methods. Services delivered via teledentistry should be consistent with in-person services, and the delivery of services utilizing these modalities must abide by laws addressing privacy and security of a patient's dental/medical information."

Iowa:

"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. A dentist shall not conduct a dental examination using teledentistry if the standard of care necessitates an in-person dental examination."

Virginia

"Treatment and consultation recommendations made in an online setting, including issuing a prescription via electronic means, will be held to the same standards of appropriate practice as those in traditional, in-person encounters. Treatment, including issuing a prescription based solely on an online questionnaire, does not constitute an acceptable standard of care."

Washington:

"Dentists using teledentistry will be held to the same standard of care as practitioners engaging in more traditional in-person care delivery, including the requirement to meet all technical, clinical, confidentiality and ethical standards required by law. Failure to conform to the standard of care, whether rendered in person or via teledentistry, may subject the practitioner to potential discipline by the Commission."

Dentist-Patient Relationship

Virginia:

"No person shall practice dentistry unless a bona fide dentist-patient relationship is established in person or through teledentistry.

A practitioner is discouraged from rendering dental advice and/or care using teledentistry services without (1) fully verifying and authenticating the location and, to the extent possible, confirming the identity of the requesting patient; (2) disclosing and validating the practitioner's identity and applicable credential(s); and (3) obtaining appropriate consents from requesting patients after disclosures regarding the delivery models and treatment methods or limitations, including any special informed consents regarding the use of teledental services.

An appropriate practitioner-patient relationship has not been established when the identity of the practitioner may be unknown to the patient."

Washington:

"'Dentist-Patient Relationship' is the relationship between a dentist and a receiver of oral health care services (patient) based on mutual understanding of their shared responsibility for the patient's oral health care. The relationship is clearly established when the dentist agrees to undertake diagnosis and/or treatment of the patient and the patient agrees that the dentist will diagnose and/or treat, whether or not there has been or is an in-person encounter between the parties. The parameters of the dentist-patient relationship for teledentistry should mirror those that would be expected for similar in-person dental encounters."

"When practicing teledentistry, a dentist must establish a practitioner-patient relationship with the patient. The absence of in-person contact does not eliminate this requirement. Patient completion of a questionnaire does not, by itself, establish a practitioner-patient relationship, and therefore treatment, including prescriptions, based solely on a questionnaire does not constitute an acceptable standard of care.

- a. The dentist must provide proof of identity, jurisdiction, and licensure status to the patient.
- b. The dentist must make appropriate effort to confirm the patient's identity. If patient is a minor, the dentist must make appropriate effort to confirm the parent or legal guardian is present when required.
- c. The dentist must confirm and document the patient is physically located in a jurisdiction in which the dentist is licensed."

Licensure

ADA:

“Dental patients whose care is rendered or coordinated using teledentistry modalities have the right to expect:

1. That any dentist delivering services using teledentistry technologies will be licensed in the state where the patient receives services, or be providing these services as otherwise authorized by that state’s dental board.
2. Access to the licensure and board certification qualifications of the oral health care practitioner who is providing the care in advance of the visit.”

Iowa:

“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.”

Virginia:

“No person shall deliver dental services through teledentistry unless he holds an active unrestricted license to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth issued by the Board.

A practitioner must be licensed by, or under the jurisdiction of, the regulatory board of the state where the patient is located and the state where the practitioner is located.”

Washington:

“A dentist using teledentistry to practice dentistry on patients in Washington must be licensed to practice dentistry in Washington. This includes dentists who treat or prescribe to Washington patients through online service sites”

Informed Consent

ADA:

“Dental patients whose care is rendered or coordinated using teledentistry modalities have the right to expect:

- That they will be informed about the identity of the providers collecting or evaluating their information or providing treatment, and of any costs they will be responsible for in advance of the delivery of services.
- That the patient will be actively involved in treatment decisions, will be able to choose how they receive a covered service, including considerations for urgency, convenience and satisfaction and without such penalties as higher deductibles, co-payments or coinsurance relative to that of in-person services.”

Iowa:

“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.”

Virginia:

“Appropriate informed consent should, as a baseline, include the following:

- Identification of the patient, the practitioner, and the practitioner’s credentials;
- Types of activities permitted using teledentistry services (e.g. prescription refills, appointment scheduling, patient education, etc.);
- Agreement by the patient that it is the role of the practitioner to determine whether or not the condition being diagnosed and/or treated is appropriate for a teledentistry encounter;
- Details on security measures taken with the use of teledentistry services, such as encrypting date of service, password protected screen savers, encrypting data files, or utilizing other reliable authentication techniques, as well as potential risks to privacy notwithstanding such measures;
- Hold harmless clause for information lost due to technical failures;

Requirement for express patient consent to forward patient-identifiable information to a third party. ”

Washington:

“As with oral health care involving in-person contact, a dentist should obtain and document appropriate informed consent for teledentistry encounters. Because of the unique characteristics of teledentistry, it is best practice for the informed consent to include:

- a. The manner in which the dentist and patient will use particular enabling technologies, the boundaries that will be established and observed, and procedures for responding to electronic communications from patients;
- b. Issues and potential risks surrounding confidentiality and security of patient information when particular enabling technologies are used (e.g., potential for decreased expectation of confidentiality if certain technologies are used);
- c. Limitations on the availability and/or appropriateness of specific teledentistry services that may be hindered as a result of the services being offered through teledentistry.”

Patient Evaluation

ADA:

“Relevant patient information will be collected prior to performing services using teledentistry technologies and methods including medical, dental, and social history, and other relevant demographic and personal information.”

Iowa:

“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.”

Virginia:

“A documented dental evaluation and collection of relevant clinical history commensurate with the presentation of the patient to establish diagnoses and identify underlying conditions and/or contra-indications to the treatment recommended/provided must be obtained prior to providing treatment, which treatment includes the issuance of prescriptions, electronically or otherwise. “

Washington:

“An appropriate history and evaluation of the patient must precede the rendering of any care, including provision of prescriptions. Not all patient situations will be appropriate for teledentistry. Evaluating the adequacy and significance of any examination remains the responsibility of the teledentistry dentist. Since, by definition, teledentistry does not involve in-person contact between dentist and patient, if circumstances require in-person contact, a credentialed health care provider may provide in person observations.

- a. The credentialed health care provider is authorized to perform tasks within their specific scope of practice.
- b. The credentialed health care provider is acceptable to the teledentistry dentist and the patient.
- c. If a credentialed health care provider is unable to perform a specific task, the teledentistry dentist should advise the patient to be seen by a dentist in-person. ”

Supervision and Scope of Practice

ADA:

“The extent of the supervision of allied dental personnel should conform to the applicable dental practice act in the state where the patient receives services and where the dentist is licensed. The dentist should be knowledgeable regarding the competence and qualifications of the allied personnel utilized, and should have the capability of immediately contacting both the allied dental personnel providing service and the patient receiving services. All services delivered by allied dental personnel should be consistent with the ADA Comprehensive Statement on Allied Dental Personnel.”

Iowa:

“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”

Tennessee:

“Any licensed dental hygienist who assists the dentist in providing dental health services or care using teledentistry is only authorized to perform those services that the dental hygienist is authorized to perform during an in-person patient encounter under general supervision”

Virginia:

“Dentists: properly supervise non-dentist clinicians when required to do so by statute.

Treatment and consultation recommendations made in an online setting, including issuing a prescription via electronic means, will be held to the same standards of appropriate practice as those in traditional, in-person encounters. Treatment, including issuing a prescription based solely on an online questionnaire, does not constitute an acceptable standard of care.

No dentist shall provide or order an appliance for a patient through teledentistry without first reviewing bone images or X-rays of the patient and documenting such review in the patient's medical record.”

Washington:

“A dentist may delegate allowable tasks to Washington licensed dental hygienists, and licensed expanded function dental auxiliaries through teledentistry. Delegation of tasks through teledentistry must be under general supervision.

Teledentistry does not meet the definition of close supervision as the dentist is not physically present.

The teledentistry dentist may provide any treatment deemed appropriate for the patient, including prescriptions, if the evaluation performed is adequate to justify the action taken. The dentist is responsible for knowing the limitations of the care he or she can provide, no matter how the care is delivered. Just as in a traditional setting, teledentistry dentists should recognize situations that are beyond their expertise, their ability, or the limits of available technology to adequately evaluate or manage in the existing circumstances, and refer such patients for appropriate care.”

Prescribing

Virginia:

“Prescribing medications, in-person or via teledentistry services, is at the professional discretion of the prescribing practitioner. The indication, appropriateness, and safety considerations for each prescription provided via teledentistry services must be evaluated by the practitioner in accordance with applicable law and current standards of practice and consequently carries the same professional accountability as prescriptions delivered during an in-person encounter.

Where such measures are upheld, and the appropriate clinical consideration is carried out and documented, the practitioner may exercise their judgment and prescribe medications as part of teledentistry encounters in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

Practitioners issuing prescriptions as part of teledentistry services should include direct contact for the prescriber or the prescriber's agent on the prescription. This direct contact information ensures ease of access by pharmacists to clarify prescription orders, and further facilitates the prescriber-patient-pharmacist relationship. ”

Washington:

“Prescribing medications, whether in person or via teledentistry, is at the professional discretion of the dentist. The dentist, in accordance with current standards of practice, must evaluate the indications, appropriateness, and safety considerations for each teledentistry prescription. Teledentistry prescriptions entail the same professional accountability as prescriptions incident to an in-person contact. Where appropriate clinical procedures and considerations are applied and documented, dentists may exercise their judgment and prescribe medications as part of teledentistry. Especially careful consideration should apply before prescribing controlled substances, and compliance with all laws and regulations pertaining to such prescriptions is expected. Measures to assure informed, accurate and error-free prescribing practices (e.g. integration with e-Prescription services) are encouraged.”

Follow Up

ADA:

“Services provided using teledentistry technologies and methods include care coordination as a part of a dental home and that the patient's records be made available to any entity that is serving as the patient's dental home.”

Iowa:

“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.”

Tennessee:

“If the information transmitted through electronic or other means as part of a patient’s encounter is not of sufficient quality or does not contain adequate information for the dentist to form an opinion, the dentist must declare they cannot form an opinion to make an adequate diagnosis and must request direct referral for inspection and actual physical examination, request additional data or recommend the patient be evaluated by the patient’s primary dentist or other local oral health care provider. ”

Patient Records/Privacy**ADA:**

“Dental patients whose care is rendered or coordinated using teledentistry modalities have the right to expect:

- That the provision of services using teledentistry technologies will be properly documented and the records and documentation collected will be provided to the patient upon their request.
- That the delivery of services using teledentistry technologies are performed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations addressing the privacy and security of patients’ private health information.”

Iowa:

“A teledentistry encounter shall be clearly characterized as such in a patient record.

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.”

Virginia:

“No person shall deliver dental services through teledentistry unless he has established written or electronic protocols for the practice of teledentistry that include:

- Safeguards to ensure compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations related to the privacy of health information;
- Documentation of all dental services provided to a patient through teledentistry, including the full name, address, telephone number, and Virginia license number of the dentist providing such dental services;
- Procedures for providing in-person services or for the referral of patients requiring dental services that cannot be provided by teledentistry to another dentist licensed to practice dentistry in the Commonwealth who actually practices dentistry in an area of the Commonwealth the patient can readily access and who has entered into an agreement with the dentist to provide dental services to patients who are referred for services;
- Provisions for the use of appropriate encryption when transmitting patient health information via teledentistry.

A dentist who delivers dental services using teledentistry shall, upon request of the patient, provide health records to the patient or a dentist of record in a timely manner.”

Washington:

“Dentists providing teledentistry services must document the encounter appropriately and completely so that the record clearly, concisely and accurately reflects what occurred during the encounter. Such records should be permanent and easily available to or on behalf of the patient and other practitioners in accordance with patient consent, direction and applicable standards. Dentists should maintain security and confidentiality of the patient record in compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to the maintenance and transmission of such records.”

Reimbursement

ADA:

“Dental benefit plans and all other third-party payers, in both public (e.g. Medicaid) and private programs, shall provide coverage for services using teledentistry technologies and methods (synchronous or asynchronous) delivered to a covered person to the same extent that the services would be covered if they were provided through in-person encounters. Coverage for services delivered via teledentistry modalities will be at the same levels as those provided for services provided through in-person encounters and not be limited or restricted based on the technology used or the location of either the patient or the provider as long as the health care provider is licensed in the state where the patient receives service.”

Ohio:

“The Department of Medicaid shall establish standards for Medicaid payments for services provided through teledentistry. The standards shall provide coverage for services to the same extent that those services would be covered by the Medicaid program if the services were provided without the use of teledentistry.

No individual or group health insuring corporation policy, contract, or agreement shall deny coverage for the costs of any services provided to an insured through teledentistry if those services would be covered if the services were delivered other than through teledentistry. The coverage that may not be excluded is subject to all terms, conditions, restrictions, exclusions, and limitations that apply to other coverage for services performed by participating and nonparticipating providers.

No individual or group policy of sickness and accident insurance or public employee benefit plan shall deny coverage for the costs of any services provided to an insured through teledentistry if those services would be covered if the services were delivered other than through teledentistry”

Virginia:

“The practice of dentistry occurs where the patient is located at the time teledentistry services are used, and insurers may issue reimbursements based on where the practitioner is located. To ensure appropriate insurance coverage, practitioners must make certain that they are compliant with federal and state laws and policies regarding reimbursements. ”

References

Each state's dental practice laws and other relevant legislation were cross-checked with the following references:

Telehealth laws:

1. Lacktman, N. et al. (2019). 50-State Survey of Telehealth Commercial Payer Statutes. Foley. Accessed at <https://www.foley.com/-/media/files/insights/health-care-law-today/19mc21486-50state-survey-of-telehealth-commercial.pdf>
2. Center for Connected Health Policy. (2019) State Telehealth Laws and Reimbursement Policies--A Comprehensive Scan of the 50 States and District of Columbia. Accessed at <https://www.cchpca.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/50%20State%20Telehealth%20Laws%20and%20Reimbursement%20Policies%20Report%20Fall%202019%20FINAL.pdf>

Hygiene Scope of Practice laws:

3. American Dental Hygienist's Association. (2019). Dental Hygiene Practice Act Overview: Permitted Functions and Supervision Levels by State. Accessed at https://www.adha.org/resources-docs/7511_Permitted_Services_Supervision_Levels_by_State.pdf
4. American Dental Hygienist's Association. (2020). Direct Access States. Accessed at https://www.adha.org/resources-docs/7513_Direct_Access_to_Care_from_DH.pdf

Mobile Permit laws:

5. ADI Mobile Health. (2017). Mobile Health Clinic State and Federal Laws and Regulations. Accessed at <http://adi-mobilehealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Mobile-Health-Clinic-Regulations-Federal-State.pdf>.

Radiation laws:

6. KaVo Kerr. (2018). State Approval Status.

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Notes/Contact

Please understand that the regulations surrounding teledentistry are changing rapidly, and these regulations may be out of date by the end of the year. This guide is merely intended to serve as a summary of different state regulations that affect the practice of teledentistry; it is not legal advice and should not be interpreted as such. Please consult with your state dental board for rules affecting your specific jurisdiction.

This guide was completed as part of a practicum project at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. It was also developed in consultation with Virtudent, a Boston-based teledentistry company.

If any discrepancies are found in this guide, or for any particular questions, please feel free to contact me at:
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Thanks for reading!