



Nevada Dental ASSOCIATION

August 24, 2020

To: The Patient Protection Commission
Office of the Governor, State of Nevada
555 East Washington Ave, Suite 5600
Las Vegas NV 89103

Re: Potential bill draft language implementing certain telehealth policies

Dear Chair Khan and Members of the Patient Protection Commission:


At the August 17, 2020 Patient Protection Commission (PPC) meeting, the Commission debated including specific provider types as part of the proposed Bill Draft 1: Telehealth. The Nevada Dental Association, on behalf of its members, urges the PPC to include dentistry into the telehealth bill draft language.

During the pandemic, Nevada dentists following directives from Governor Sisolak's Medical Advisory Team and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, postponed all elective dental procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits to help slow the spread of the virus and preserve valuable PPE supplies. To serve the community most appropriately, Nevada dentists utilized teledental platforms to communicate with patients and provide emergency triage. While teledentistry was used before the pandemic for after-hours dental emergencies, during the pandemic, there was an eight-fold increase in the number of unique teledental visits. However, the application of teledentistry has been implemented without clear governance of how teledentistry should be utilized in our state.

On July 2019, Dr. Antonina Capurro, Nevada State Dental Health Officer, petitioned and was granted clarification by the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners (NSBDE) that telehealth is within the scope of practice for licensed dental practitioners. However, this advisory opinion came with the understanding that NRS 629.510-.515 does not include teledentistry, specifically nor does the telehealth chapter alter any statutes within NSBDE jurisdiction as is the case with other professional licensing boards. NSBDE made the decision to define telehealth for dental practitioners, create legislative language, and write regulations at a future date. This has not yet been accomplished and is a hindrance to the dental community's ability to effectively utilize this emerging technology.

The Nevada Dental Association reiterates its request made under public comment on Monday, August 17th, and respectfully asks for your consideration to include specifically, verbiage for dentistry within the PPC's telehealth bill draft request.

The Association is available to answer questions and provide information, as needed.


Mark D. Funke, D.D.S.
President, Nevada Dental Association

For further information on the possibilities for teledentistry in Nevada, please visit:
<https://teladentistry.com/government-affairs-2/>