

To whom it may concern.

As an oral health researcher and expert, I am writing to support the provision of selected oral health treatment and prevention procedures via telehealth to those whose needs are not of an emergency nature, but who require review of an oral health problem, advice on what it is and how to address it, and instruction on preventive behaviors that can mitigate a situation, and prevent it from getting worse. Oral health is demonstrably related to general health, good oral health can reduce problems associated with diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Most mental health and general health problems can be addressed through telemedicine, contributing to effective triage, reduced pain, reduced stress related to trying to access immediate services especially during the Covid19 epidemic. Oral health problems are just as important as medical and mental health problems and non emergency situations can be addressed through telemedicine in the same way. This is especially the case for those who are vulnerable to Covid 19 especially older adults and people with comorbidities, as well as those with limited resources who run the risk of exposure to Covid 19 through having to travel using public transportation. It is cost effective to reduce their risks, to mitigate problems, and avoid having to triage at dental treatment sites especially emergency clinics. It is critically important to include dental service providers on the list of those able to deliver and charge for treatment/prevention via telemedicine and I endorse the current effort to do so.

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