



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AGING
2023 CO-AGE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY



Teledentistry

The Issue

Georgia has no rules or legislation to authorize supervising dentists to send or receive remote communication. Dental hygienists working in non-traditional practice settings are able to assess a patient prior to beginning care. In states where the supervising dentist is not physically present during the patient assessment, these findings may be sent remotely by the hygienist to the dentist for evaluation. This is known as Telehealth for Dentistry, or Teledentistry, and may take several forms, such as photos, x-rays, or two-way audio, visual, or other electronic communications.

Teledentistry brings about efficiency, provides access to underserved populations, and improves quality of care to reduce the oral disease burden.





Teledentistry

The Ask

The establishment of Teledentistry will: 1) reduce costs through prevention and early intervention of dental diseases, 2) enable authorizing dentists to review x-rays and photos of the patient's issues or status, 3) further integrate medical-dental care, 4) shorten in-office or onsite dental appointments and 5) establish a virtual dental home in the community

The Georgia Council on Aging (GCOA) and the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE) recommends that legislation to establish Teledentistry under the umbrella of Telehealth will benefit those who have little to no access to oral care in rural areas as well as in remote settings (outside of the dental office), such as long-term care communities, hospitals, domestic violence shelters, community clinics, and the home bound.

About GCOA

The Council was created in 1977 by the Georgia Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity on aging issues to the Governor, General Assembly, Department of Human Services and all other state agencies.

About CO-AGE

The Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE) is a diverse group of organizations, individuals, consumers, and providers interested in improving the quality of life for older Georgians through public policy.