

Continuing Education

HHS Learning Opportunity: Telemedicine Hack (*ongoing*)

A 10-week learning community to accelerate telemedicine implementation for ambulatory providers. First session begins on Wednesday, July 22nd.

Key components of Telemedicine Hack include:

- Five teleECHO sessions on key topics (e.g., workflows, documentation, reimbursement) highlighting best practices and case studies from the field
- Five virtual "office hour" discussion panels with case presenters, government agencies, topical experts, and stakeholder associations responding to your questions
- Inter-session peer-to-peer learning facilitated via virtual discussion boards and ad hoc interest groups
- CME/CEU credits are available for attending, at no cost to participants

Registration is available [here](#).

Up-coming Webinars

NNOHA: Health Center School-Based Dental Programs and COVID-19: A Listening Session

Monday, August 10 at 1:30 PM

Register [here](#)

ADA: Practicing in a Pandemic: What the Data Shows by Gender

Thursday, August 13th at

Register [here](#)

Teledentistry

Dr. Brooke Fukuoka is a general dentist who runs an extensive teledentistry program with nursing homes in Idaho

- In this [video](#), Dr. Brooke breaks down the difference between asynchronous and synchronous dental visits.
 - What makes a visit synchronous v. asynchronous
 - Benefits and drawbacks of each type of teledentistry visit

Special Care Dentists of Idaho: [Teledentistry Discussion Panel](#)

- Panelists: Dr. Scott Howell, Melissa Turner, Dr. Paul Glassman, Brant Herman, Dr. Tanner Clark, Jingjing Qian
- Moderator: Dr. Brooke Fukuoka
- Benefits of teledentistry (RDH perspective)
 - Explains opportunity for care delivery, especially for special needs and geriatric patients
 - Gives RDH more job flexibility and opportunity -- able to choose how / when to work
 - E.g., a caregiver at a long term facility can perform intraoral scans with an intraoral camera for a RDH and/or DMD/DDS to review
 - Improved opportunity for patient communication
 - ABLE to make an impact on the patient to better understand their oral condition
- Diagnosis from digital images is a clinical skill
 - Much like learning how to perform a filling, learning to diagnosis via teledentistry is a skill

- Having a RDH that you trust and have calibrated with can gather valuable clinical information (e.g., probing depth, tooth mobility, other significant clinical findings)
 - Work with an RDH in a person setting and practice how a virtual appointment would run
- Teledentistry does *not* change provider-patient relationship
 - Teledentistry is a tool, but do not let it replace that person-to-person relationship
- Mobile health and telehealth go hand in hand
 - Help move practice outside the office
- Teledentistry can help decrease foot traffic in the office, decrease need for PPE, but still allow patients to connect with clinicians
 - Help improve the efficiency and efficacy of dentistry
- This is *not* just a live video consultation
 - Balance what can take place during a virtual appointment
 - Information collection asynchronously and then scheduling a time for a synchronous discussion
- Synchronous may be helpful for
 - Those who are not comfortable with the technology and during a synchronous appointment a dentist can help guide the RDH through what he/she wants to look at
 - Still photos may not be obtainable
- Asynchronous is very beneficial when
 - There is a lack of good internet
 - The dentist is not ready for the virtual appointment
- Both synchronous and asynchronous can be used with one patient during one appointment
 - Think about what you are trying to accomplish during the appointment
- Think of the dental office as a surgical suite
 - Many community members can be kept healthy outside of the traditional dental office
 - Teledentistry can help improve these opportunities to provide optimum care in community settings
- E.g., opportunity for post-op follow up with dental patients
 - Do not require a patient taking significant time off to present for a short, 10 minute follow up appointment in office following a procedure
- Teledentistry can help a provider and patient have a face-to-face conversation outside of a dental office
 - Easier to see the clinician's face -- conversation feels more personal
 - Allows discussions to occur in an environment where the patient may feel more comfortable (e.g., some patients may feel anxious while in a dental chair, but more at ease at home)
- Intraoral cameras can help improve clinical practice i.e., provide a map of the patient's mouth
 - Comparing before and after pictures for procedures and how procedures can be improved
- If you are interested in implementing teledentistry consider investing in a teledentistry specific product (e.g., Mouthwatch) rather than using something generic (e.g., Zoom)
 - Do some research and pick a system that will provide everything that you need

- Consider doing exams twice
 - Once in person, once virtually... opportunity to identify other areas that require care / treatment
- Use enhanced methods to help keep patients comfortable during teledentistry appointments
 - E.g., in special needs dentistry consider using a bitestick to prevent a patient from biting on the camera
 - Help your patients get comfortable with this treatment modality and take your time and slowly introduce as necessary

Clinical Guidance

[Virginia Dental Safety Net Clinic Status](#)

Please remember to [contact Virginia Health Catalyst](#) to update your clinic's information accordingly!

[CDC Guidance in the Dental Setting](#) (updated 08.04.2020)

- For areas experiencing moderate to substantial infection, the CDC has updated guidance that during encounters with patients who are not suspected COVID-19 (+) to wear eye protection in addition to a face covering
 - The CDC notes protective eyewear (e.g., safety glasses, trauma glasses) with gaps between glasses and the face likely do not protect eyes from all splashes and sprays. Your eye protection should have side shields present to eliminate gaps.

Glidewell Dental: [Infection Control & PPE After COVID-19](#)

- Gordon J. Christensen, DDS, MSD, PhD reviews several products for consideration in the dental office to aid in infection control and enhanced precautions
- These are not definitive recommendations, but meant to help guide as your clinic may consider other investments
- Please remember that continues to be shortages of PPE and difficulty in obtaining new equipment due to the high demand so some of these recommendations may not be readily available to your clinic as well, but again, may be worth considering

Community

Download Virginia Department of Health [COVIDWISE](#)

- A free app designed to aid with contact tracing
 - Using Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology to quickly notify users who have likely been exposed so you can reduce the risk of infection for your friends and family and help Virginia stop the spread.
- The app doesn't save any data about you – simply serves as a way to effectively manage contact tracing

U.S. News: [Pandemic Threatens to Deepen Disparities in Dental Health](#)

- Prior to COVID-19 pandemic, African Americans were more likely to have untreated tooth decay and face cost barriers to receiving dental care compared to their white counterparts
- The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the African American and Latinx community

- These communities are now hesitant to return to the dental office due to the proximity of dental treatment and high COVID-19 infection rates in their communities
- Closure of schools = lost opportunity for school based programs that traditionally served the pediatric population in these communities
- Dental offices that traditionally serve low income patients are now operating in the red and facing challenges in remaining financially stable

ADA HPI: [How COVID-19 is Impacting Dental Practices and Patient Attitudes Toward Visiting the Dentist](#)

- Information is primarily focused on surveys from private dental offices, DSOs
- Second half of this week's presentation examined consumer sentiment re: returning to the dental office during the pandemic
 - COVID-19 heavy states are less confident about the state of the country and future prospects
 - Seeing a slight rebound in patients who would return to the dentist without hesitation
 - 7 in 10 people state they would get vaccinated once the vaccine is available
 - About ¼ of individuals would consider getting vaccinated at a hotel or an airline -- indicates opportunity for vaccination outside of a medical offices or other traditional sites
 - With necessary assurances, 45% of individuals would return to the dentist immediately and 17% would return within 1 month
 - If there was a local COVID-19 outbreak that was traced to a dental office that an individual as *not* a patient of, 36% of patients would still feel comfortable visiting their own dentist provided that office as using the enhance precautions and protocols recommended by the ADA and CDC
 - ¼ would *not* be comfortable unless there was an approved COVID-19 vaccine and/or proven medical protocol to mitigate and remedy the effects of the virus
 - Most consumers trust the CDC (48%) and ADA (22%) trust these authorities on safety to return to the dentist