



AMBER LOVATOS, RDH, BSDH

DENTAL HYGIENIST
& SPEAKER



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BIOGRAPHY

Amber is the Clinical Director of Dental Services at TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries, a non-profit medical and dental clinic. She is also an adjunct assistant professor at The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston, Key Opinion Leader for Crest Oral-B and Elevate Oral Care, Government Affairs consultant for Mouthwatch, and speaker. Amber speaks on teledentistry, abuse, public health, special needs, and human trafficking. She has presented numerous times, both nationally and regionally, including at the American Dental Hygienists' Association, American Association of Orthodontics, and American Academy of Orofacial Pain. She is also the co-founder of Dental Hygiene Spark, a social media platform dedicated to empowering dental hygienists. Amber is the recipient of numerous awards including the American Dental Education Association's Crest Oral-B Scholarship for Dental Hygienists' Pursuing Academic Careers, ADEA Sigma Phi Alpha Scholarship, and ADHA Irene Woodall Graduate Scholarship. Amber values leadership and organized dentistry. She is a member of American Dental Hygienists' Association, American Dental Education Association, Texas Oral Health Coalition, Houston Equality Dental Network, and Hispanic Dental Association. Amber has served on all levels of the ADHA's tripartite. She is currently the Texas Dental Hygienists' Association's Membership Director and the Immediate Past President for the Greater Houston Dental Hygienists' Association, the largest component in the ADHA. In her free time, Amber enjoys crafting, volunteering, and spending time with her husband and two teenage boys.



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TECH TALK: AN INTRODUCTION TO TELEDENTISTRY

Teledentistry is the use of telecommunication to transmit patient information collected by an allied healthcare provider, to a dentist, in order to provide diagnostic and clinical care to patients. There are a variety of forms of teledentistry that can be used to provide patient care; this includes providing specialty care consultation and referrals, identification of oral lesions, dental caries diagnosis, and overall oral health assessments. This C.E. presentation will review the application and implementation of teledentistry, including accuracy, legality, billing, cost, insurance reimbursement, funding, legislation, codes, HIPAA, technology, licensure, benefits, barriers, and other considerations. This C.E. will aid dental hygienists interested in incorporating telecommunication in their dental practice and/or dental hygienists interested in providing care in remote areas to underserved populations.

OBJECTIVES

- The learner will explore specialty care (pathology, orthodontics, periodontics, etc...) applications of telecommunication in dentistry.
- The learner will be able to identify barriers to teledentistry and how-to address them.
- The learner will be able to dissect their specific state dental practice act for possible limiting verbiage to telecommunication in dentistry.



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BRIDGING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP- NAVIGATING TELEDENTISTRY POLICY

Telecommunication can be a useful tool to provide care in dentistry. It is also a complex and widely misunderstood topic. This continuing education presentation will review the legal considerations for participating in teledentistry; state practice acts, billing, insurance reimbursement, legislation, codes, HIPAA, technology, licensure, barriers, and other considerations. This C.E. will aid those interested in incorporating telecommunication in their dental practice. We will also explore examples of specific state dental practice acts to identify possible barriers to telecommunication in dentistry.

OBJECTIVES

- The learner will be able to dissect their specific state dental practice act for possible limiting verbiage to telecommunication in dentistry.
- The learner will be able to identify barriers to teledentistry and how-to address them.
- The learner will be able to develop teledentistry programs while remaining compliant with their state's practice act.