

American Dental Association  
**Technical Report No. 1041**

# Content of Electronic Laboratory Prescriptions

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## **AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1041 FOR CONTENT OF ELECTRONIC LABORATORY PRESCRIPTIONS**

The Council on Dental Practice of the American Dental Association has approved American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1041 for Content of Electronic Laboratory Prescriptions. Working Groups of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI) formulate this and other technical reports and specifications for the application of information technology and other electronic technologies to dentistry's clinical and administrative operations. The ADA SCDI has representation from appropriate interests in the United States in the standardization of information technology and other electronic technologies used in dental practice. Approval of ADA Technical Report No. 1041 was confirmed by the ADA SCDI on September 18, 2006.

The ADA SCDI thanks the chairman of SCDI Working Group 10.9 for Dissemination of Dental Laboratory Prescriptions, James McLees, National Association of Dental Laboratories, Kent, WA, for his effort in the development of this technical report. This report was prepared under the direction of ADA SCDI Subcommittee 10 for Dental Informatics Architecture and Devices (Norman Schreiber, Chairman).

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### FOREWORD

(This foreword does not form a part of American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1041 for Content of Electronic Laboratory Prescriptions).

In 1992, there was interest in the standardization of clinical information systems related to electronic technology in the dental environment. After evaluating current informatics activities, a Task Group of the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee MD156 (ASC MD156) was created by the ADA to initiate the development of technical reports, guidelines, and standards on electronic technologies used in dental practice. In 1999, the ADA established the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI). The ADA SCDI is currently the group that reviews and approves proposed American National Standards (ANSI approved) and technical reports developed by the standards committee's working groups. The ADA became an ANSI accredited standards organization in 2000.

The scope of the ADA SCDI is:

*"To promote patient care and oral health through the application of information technology to dentistry's clinical and administrative operations; to develop standards, specifications, technical reports, and guidelines for: components of a computerized dental clinical workstation; electronic technologies used in dental practice; and interoperability standards for different software and hardware products which provide a seamless information exchange throughout all facets of healthcare."*

This technical report was prepared by SCDI Working Group 10.9. The SCDI Working Group chairman is James McLees. SCDI Working Group 10.9 prepared this report at the request of SCDI Subcommittee 10 for Dental Informatics Architecture and Devices (Norman Schreiber, Chairman).

## AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1041 FOR CONTENT OF ELECTRONIC LABORATORY PRESCRIPTIONS

### SCOPE

The Scope of this technical report is to present the types of data and electronic format necessary to create an electronic dental laboratory prescription. Another goal of this report is to create security awareness and education for the dental practitioner associated with electronic dissemination of patient information offsite to the outsourced dental laboratory.

### INTRODUCTION

The Internet has proven to be an effective means of communication, yet its vulnerability to interception raises issues of privacy, authentication and integrity of the communicated message. Therefore, data security is of utmost importance to users of dental information systems.

Because of the personal and private nature of health records, the dental practitioner needs to understand the security issues associated with "data at rest" and "data in transit." This paper is intended to explain security concepts and the risks associated with the maintenance of data in storage and transit, and over an internet connection. The ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics has published a series of technical reports that provide dental practitioners with guidelines in addressing issues of security of data in storage and transmission over the Internet.<sup>1-6</sup>

The accumulation and dissemination of data by electronic means offer a degree of accuracy and security unavailable by any other mechanism when the proper protocol is followed on a routine and consistent basis. A dental practice's data protection plan needs to address every possible situation to protect the data that has been collected and recorded. ADA Technical Report No. 1021, Data Integrity, Redundancy, Storage and Accessibility, provides dental practitioners with guidelines for safe and effective data backup and storage.<sup>7</sup>

This technical report provides additional guidelines for the format and content of patient data disseminated offsite to the outsourced dental laboratory. The recommendations provided herein are designed to be technology-neutral and to be scalable to address the needs of both large and small facilities.

This document may provide information regarding legal implications of the security and privacy regulations. This document does not provide legal advice, and covered entities must work with their legal staff to address appropriate requirements. This document may serve as a tool to expedite an understanding of the necessary legal actions needed to address requirements, as well as federal and state legislation, as security and privacy has an impact on many aspects of dentistry.

### REFERENCED STANDARDS

The following documents contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this document.

CDT – Current Dental Terminology, American Dental Association

ADA Technical Report No. 1019

ADA Technical Report No. 1031

ADA/ISO Specification No. 3950

(ADA publications, technical reports and specifications are available from the American Dental Association, Department of Standards Administration, 211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611 or [www.adacatalog.org](http://www.adacatalog.org)).

DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communications In Medicine) Visible Light standard