

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

# Content of Electronic Dental Laboratory Prescriptions

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2015

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

The Council on Dental Practice and Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Dental Association have approved American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1041 for Content of Electronic Dental Laboratory Prescription. Working Groups of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI) and ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products (SCDP) formulate this and other specifications and technical reports for the application of information technology and other electronic technologies to dentistry's clinical and administrative operations. The ADA SCDI and SCDP have representation from appropriate interests in the United States in the standardization of information technology and other electronic technologies used in dental practice. The ADA SCDI confirmed approval of ADA Technical Report No. 1041 on January 7, 2015.

Publication of this technical report that has been registered with ANSI has been approved by the American Dental Association, 211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. This document is registered as a technical report according to the *Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI*. This document is not an American National Standard and the material contained herein is not normative in nature. Comments on this document should be sent to the American Dental Association, 211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

The ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics thanks the members of Working Group 10.9 and the organizations with which they were affiliated at the time the specification was developed:

James McLees (chairman), National Association of Dental Laboratories, Kent, WA;  
Scott D. Benjamin, Advanced Integration & Mentoring Inc., Hancock, NY;  
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**FOREWORD**

(This Foreword does not form a part of Revised ADA Technical Report No. 1041 for Content of Electronic Dental Laboratory Prescriptions.)

This technical report cancels and replaces ADA Technical Report No. 1041-2006.

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:

"The ADA SCDI shall develop informatics standards, technical reports and guidelines and interact with other entities involved in the development of health informatics standards aimed at implementation across the dental profession.

## **REVISED AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1041 FOR CONTENT OF ELECTRONIC DENTAL 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(s) 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 <http://ebusiness.ada.org/productcatalog>).