

American Dental Association
Technical Report No. 1016

Electronic/ Digital Signatures Uses in Dentistry

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**AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1016 FOR
ELECTRONIC/DIGITAL SIGNATURES USES IN DENTISTRY**

The Council on Dental Practice of the American Dental Association has approved American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1016 for Electronic/Digital Signatures Uses in Dentistry. 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. 1016 was confirmed by the ADA SCDI on July 2, 2002.

The ADA SCDI thanks Norman Schreiber, HIPAAseminars.com, Phoenix, MD, as chairman of Working Group 10.3 for Dental Information Systems Security and Safeguards for leading the development effort.

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FOREWORD

(This foreword does not form a part of the American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1016 for Electronic/Digital Signatures Uses in Dentistry)

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 10.3 for Dental Information Systems Security and Safeguards. The SCDI Working Group 10.3 chairman is Norman Schreiber. SCDI Working Group 10.3 prepared this report at the request of SCDI Subcommittee 10 for Dental Informatics Architecture and Devices (Scott Trapp, Chairman).