

Assembly Bill No. 1174

CHAPTER 662

An act to amend Sections 1684.5, 1925, and 1944 of, to add Section 1926.05 to, and to add, repeal, and add Sections 1753.55 and 1910.5 of, the Business and Professions Code, and to add and repeal Section 128196 of the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Section 14132.725 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to oral health.

[Approved by Governor September 27, 2014. Filed with
Secretary of State September 27, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1174, Bocanegra. Dental professionals.

(1) Under existing law, the Dental Practice Act, the Dental Board of California licenses and regulates dentists. Existing law creates, within the jurisdiction of the board, a Dental Assisting Council that is responsible for the regulation of dental assistants, registered dental assistants, and registered dental assistants in extended functions and a Dental Hygiene Committee of California, that is responsible for the regulation of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions. Existing law governs the scope of practice for those professionals, and authorizes a dentist to require or permit one of those professionals, referred to as a dental auxiliary, to perform specified duties, including exposing emergency radiographs upon the direction of the dentist, prior to the dentist examining the patient.

This bill would add to those specified duties exposing radiographs, as specified, make a dentist responsible to provide a patient or the patient's representative written notice, including specified contact information and disclosing that the care was provided at the direction of that authorizing dentist, and would prohibit a dentist from concurrently supervising more than a total of 5 dental auxiliaries, as specified. The bill would authorize specified registered dental assistants in extended functions, registered dental hygienists, and registered dental hygienists in alternative practice to determine which radiographs to perform and to place protective restorations, as specified. The bill would require the board to adopt related regulations, and would also require the committee to review proposed regulations and submit any recommended changes to the board for review to establish a consensus.

(2) Existing law requires the committee to establish by resolution the amount of the fees that relate to the licensing of a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienist in extended functions. Existing law limits the fee for each review of courses required for licensure that are not accredited to \$300. Under

existing law, those fees are further limited to the reasonable regulatory cost incurred by the committee.

This bill would instead limit the fee for each review or approval of course requirements for licensure or procedures that require additional training to \$750.

(3) Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services, including certain dental services, as specified. Existing law provides that, to the extent that federal financial participation is available, face-to-face contact between a health care provider and a patient is not required under the Medi-Cal program for “teleophthalmology and teledermatology by store and forward,” as defined to mean the asynchronous transmission of medical information to be reviewed at a later time by a licensed physician or optometrist, as specified, at a distant site.

This bill would additionally provide that face-to-face contact between a health care provider and a patient is not required under the Medi-Cal program for teledentistry by store and forward, as defined.

(4) Existing law authorizes the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to approve Health Workforce Pilot Projects (HWPP) No. 172, as defined. The office has approved operation HWPP No. 172, relating to dental workforce, through December 15, 2014.

This bill would extend the operation of HWPP through January 1, 2016. The bill would also delete redundant provisions, and would make conforming changes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1684.5 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1684.5. (a) In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct under this chapter, it is unprofessional conduct for any dentist to perform or allow to be performed any treatment on a patient who is not a patient of record of that dentist. A dentist may, however, after conducting a preliminary oral examination, require or permit any dental auxiliary to perform procedures necessary for diagnostic purposes, provided that the procedures are permitted under the auxiliary’s authorized scope of practice. Additionally, a dentist may require or permit a dental auxiliary to perform all of the following duties prior to any examination of the patient by the dentist, provided that the duties are authorized for the particular classification of dental auxiliary pursuant to Article 7 (commencing with Section 1740):

- (1) Expose emergency radiographs upon direction of the dentist.
- (2) If the dental auxiliary is a registered dental assistant in extended functions, a registered dental hygienist, or a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, determine and perform radiographs for the specific purpose of aiding a dentist in completing a comprehensive diagnosis and

treatment plan for a patient using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist pursuant to Sections 1753.55, 1910.5, and 1926.05. A dentist is not required to review patient records or make a diagnosis using telehealth.

(3) Perform extra-oral duties or functions specified by the dentist.

(4) Perform mouth-mirror inspections of the oral cavity, to include charting of obvious lesions, malocclusions, existing restorations, and missing teeth.

(b) For purposes of this section, “patient of record” refers to a patient who has been examined, has had a medical and dental history completed and evaluated, and has had oral conditions diagnosed and a written plan developed by the licensed dentist.

(c) For purposes of this section, if dental treatment is provided to a patient by a registered dental assistant in extended functions, a registered dental hygienist, or a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice pursuant to the diagnosis and treatment plan authorized by a supervising dentist, at a location other than the dentist’s practice location, it is the responsibility of the authorizing dentist that the patient or the patient’s representative receive written notification that the care was provided at the direction of the authorizing dentist and that the notification include the authorizing dentist’s name, practice location address, and telephone number. This provision shall not require patient notification for dental hygiene preventive services provided in public health programs as specified and authorized in Section 1911, or for dental hygiene care when provided as specified and authorized in Section 1926.

(d) A dentist shall not concurrently supervise more than a total of five registered dental assistants in extended functions, registered dental hygienists, or registered dental hygienists in alternative practice providing services pursuant to Sections 1753.55, 1910.5, and 1926.05.

(e) This section shall not apply to dentists providing examinations on a temporary basis outside of a dental office in settings including, but not limited to, health fairs and school screenings.

(f) This section shall not apply to fluoride mouth rinse or supplement programs administered in a school or preschool setting.

SEC. 2. Section 1753.55 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1753.55. (a) A registered dental assistant in extended functions is authorized to perform additional duties as set forth in subdivision (b) pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a supervising dentist if the licensee meets one the following requirements:

(1) Is licensed on or after January 1, 2010.

(2) Is licensed prior to January 1, 2010, has successfully completed a board-approved course in the additional procedures specified in paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (7) to (11), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 1753.5, and passed the examination as specified in Section 1753.4.

(b) (1) Determine which radiographs to perform on a patient who has not received an initial examination by the supervising dentist for the specific

purpose of the dentist making a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient. In these circumstances, the dental assistant in extended functions shall follow protocols established by the supervising dentist. This paragraph only applies in the following settings:

(A) In a dental office setting.

(B) In public health settings, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics, under the general supervision of a dentist.

(2) Place protective restorations, which for this purpose are identified as interim therapeutic restorations, and defined as a direct provisional restoration placed to stabilize the tooth until a licensed dentist diagnoses the need for further definitive treatment. An interim therapeutic restoration consists of the removal of soft material from the tooth using only hand instrumentation, without the use of rotary instrumentation, and subsequent placement of an adhesive restorative material. Local anesthesia shall not be necessary for interim therapeutic restoration placement. Interim therapeutic restorations shall be placed only in accordance with both of the following:

(A) In either of the following settings:

(i) In a dental office setting, under the direct or general supervision of a dentist as determined by the dentist.

(ii) In public health settings, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics, under the general supervision of a dentist.

(B) After the diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.

(c) The functions described in subdivision (b) may be performed by a registered dental assistant in extended functions only after completion of a program that includes training in performing those functions, or after providing evidence, satisfactory to the board, of having completed a board-approved course in those functions.

(1) No later than January 1, 2018, the board shall adopt regulations to establish requirements for courses of instruction for the procedures authorized to be performed by a registered dental assistant in extended functions pursuant to this section, using the competency-based training protocols established by the Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) No. 172 through the Office of Health Planning and Development. The board shall submit to the committee proposed regulatory language for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration to the committee for the purpose of promulgating regulations for registered dental hygienists and registered dental hygienists in alternative practice as described in Section 1910.5. The language submitted by the board to the committee shall mirror the curriculum requirements for the registered dental assistant in extended functions. Any subsequent amendments to the regulations that are promulgated by the board for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration curriculum shall be submitted to the committee.

(2) Until the regulations adopted by the board pursuant to paragraph (1) become effective, the board shall use the competency-based training protocols established by HWPP No. 172 through the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to approve courses of instruction for the procedures authorized in this section.

(3) A registered dental assistant in extended functions who has completed the prescribed training in HWPP No. 172 established by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 128125) of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement for completion of a course of instruction approved by the board.

(4) In addition to the instructional components described in this subdivision, a program shall contain both of the instructional components described in this paragraph:

(A) The course shall be established at the postsecondary educational level.

(B) All faculty responsible for clinical evaluation shall have completed a one-hour methodology course in clinical evaluation or have a faculty appointment at an accredited dental education program prior to conducting evaluations of students.

(d) The board may issue a permit to a registered dental assistant in extended functions who files a completed application, including the fee, to provide the duties specified in this section after the board has determined the registered dental assistant in extended functions has completed the coursework required in subdivision (c).

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2018, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2018, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 3. Section 1753.55 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1753.55. (a) A registered dental assistant in extended functions is authorized to perform the additional duties as set forth in subdivision (b) pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a supervising dentist, if the licensee meets one of the following requirements:

(1) Is licensed on or after January 1, 2010.

(2) Is licensed prior to January 1, 2010, has successfully completed a board-approved course in the additional procedures specified in paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (7) to (11), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 1753.5, and passed the examination as specified in Section 1753.4.

(b) (1) Determine which radiographs to perform on a patient who has not received an initial examination by the supervising dentist for the specific purpose of the dentist making a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient. In these circumstances, the dental assistant in extended functions shall follow protocols established by the supervising dentist. This paragraph only applies in the following settings:

(A) In a dental office setting.

(B) In public health settings, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics, under the general supervision of a dentist.

(2) Place protective restorations, which for this purpose are identified as interim therapeutic restorations, and defined as a direct provisional restoration placed to stabilize the tooth until a licensed dentist diagnoses the need for further definitive treatment. An interim therapeutic restoration consists of the removal of soft material from the tooth using only hand instrumentation, without the use of rotary instrumentation, and subsequent placement of an adhesive restorative material. Local anesthesia shall not be necessary for interim therapeutic restoration placement. Interim therapeutic restorations shall be placed only in accordance with both of the following:

(A) In either of the following settings:

(i) In a dental office setting, under the direct or general supervision of a dentist as determined by the dentist.

(ii) In public health settings, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics, under the general supervision of a dentist.

(B) After the diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.

(c) The functions described in subdivision (b) may be performed by a registered dental assistant in extended functions only after completion of a program that includes training in performing those functions, or after providing evidence, satisfactory to the board, of having completed a board-approved course in those functions.

(d) No later than January 1, 2018, the board shall adopt regulations to establish requirements for courses of instruction for the procedures authorized to be performed by a registered dental assistant in extended functions pursuant to this section using the competency-based training protocols established by the Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) No. 172 through the Office of Health Planning and Development. The board shall submit to the committee proposed regulatory language for the curriculum for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration to the committee for the purpose of promulgating regulations for registered dental hygienists and registered dental hygienists in alternative practice as described in Section 1910.5. The language submitted by the board shall mirror the instructional curriculum for the registered dental assistant in extended functions. Any subsequent amendments to the regulations that are promulgated by the board for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration curriculum shall be submitted to the committee.

(e) The board may issue a permit to a registered dental assistant in extended functions who files a completed application, including the fee, to provide the duties specified in this section after the board has determined the registered dental assistant in extended functions has completed the coursework required in subdivision (c).

(f) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2018.

SEC. 4. Section 1910.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1910.5. (a) In addition to the duties specified in Section 1910, a registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following additional duties, as specified:

(1) Determine which radiographs to perform on a patient who has not received an initial examination by the supervising dentist for the specific purpose of the dentist making a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient. In these circumstances, the dental hygienist shall follow protocols established by the supervising dentist. This paragraph shall only apply in the following settings:

(A) In a dental office setting.

(B) In a public health setting, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.

(2) Place protective restorations, which for this purpose are identified as interim therapeutic restorations, and defined as a direct provisional restoration placed to stabilize the tooth until a licensed dentist diagnoses the need for further definitive treatment. An interim therapeutic restoration consists of the removal of soft material from the tooth using only hand instrumentation, without the use of rotary instrumentation, and subsequent placement of an adhesive restorative material. Local anesthesia shall not be necessary for interim therapeutic restoration placement. Interim therapeutic restorations shall be placed only in accordance with both of the following:

(A) In either of the following settings:

(i) In a dental office setting.

(ii) In a public health setting, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.

(B) After the diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.

(b) The functions described in subdivision (a) may be performed by a registered dental hygienist only after completion of a program that includes training in performing those functions, or after providing evidence, satisfactory to the committee, of having completed a committee-approved course in those functions.

(c) (1) No later than January 1, 2018, the committee shall adopt regulations to establish requirements for courses of instruction for the procedures authorized to be performed by a registered dental hygienist and registered dental hygienist in alternative practice pursuant to Sections 1910.5 and 1926.05 using the competency-based training protocols established by the Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) No. 172 through the Office of Health Planning and Development. The committee shall use the curriculum submitted by the dental board, pursuant to Section 1753.55, to adopt

regulatory language for approval of courses of instruction for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration. Any subsequent amendments to the regulations for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration curriculum that are promulgated by the committee shall be agreed upon by the board and the committee.

(2) Prior to January 1, 2018, the committee shall use the competency-based training protocols established by HWPP No. 172 through the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to approve courses of instruction for the procedures authorized in this section.

(3) A registered dental hygienist who has completed the prescribed training in HWPP No. 172 established by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 128125) of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement for completion of a course of instruction approved by the committee.

(4) In addition to the instructional components described in this subdivision, a program shall contain both of the instructional components described in this paragraph:

(A) The course shall be established at the postsecondary educational level.

(B) All faculty responsible for clinical evaluation shall have completed a one-hour methodology course in clinical evaluation or have a faculty appointment at an accredited dental education program prior to conducting evaluations of students.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2018, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2018, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 5. Section 1910.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1910.5. (a) In addition to the duties specified in Section 1910, a registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following additional duties, as specified:

(1) Determine which radiographs to perform on a patient who has not received an initial examination by the supervising dentist for the specific purpose of the dentist making a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient. In these circumstances, the dental hygienist shall follow protocols established by the supervising dentist. This paragraph only applies in the following settings:

(A) In a dental office setting.

(B) In a public health setting, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.

(2) Place protective restorations, which for this purpose are identified as interim therapeutic restorations, and defined as a direct provisional restoration placed to stabilize the tooth until a licensed dentist diagnoses the need for further definitive treatment. An interim therapeutic restoration consists of the removal of soft material from the tooth using only hand

instrumentation, without the use of rotary instrumentation, and subsequent placement of an adhesive restorative material. Local anesthesia shall not be necessary for interim therapeutic restoration placement. Interim therapeutic restorations shall be placed only in accordance with both of the following:

(A) In either of the following settings:

(i) In a dental office setting.

(ii) In a public health setting, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.

(B) After the diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.

(b) The functions described in subdivision (a) may be performed by a registered dental hygienist only after completion of a program that includes training in performing those functions, or after providing evidence, satisfactory to the committee, of having completed a committee-approved course in those functions.

(c) No later than January 1, 2018, the committee shall adopt regulations to establish requirements for courses of instruction for the procedures authorized to be performed by a registered dental hygienist and registered dental hygienist in alternative practice pursuant to Sections 1910.5 and 1926.05, using the competency-based training protocols established by the Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) No. 172 through the Office of Health Planning and Development. The committee shall use the curriculum submitted by the board pursuant to Section 1753.55 to adopt regulatory language for approval of courses of instruction for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration. Any subsequent amendments to the regulations for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration curriculum that are promulgated by the committee shall be agreed upon by the board and the committee.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2018.

SEC. 6. Section 1925 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1925. A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may practice, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 1907, subdivision (a) of Section 1908, subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 1910, Section 1910.5, and Section 1926.05 as an employee of a dentist or of another registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, as an independent contractor, as a sole proprietor of an alternative dental hygiene practice, as an employee of a primary care clinic or specialty clinic that is licensed pursuant to Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code, as an employee of a primary care clinic exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code, as an employee of a clinic owned or operated by a public hospital or health system, or as an employee of a clinic owned and operated by a hospital that maintains the primary contract with a county government to fill the county's role under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

SEC. 7. Section 1926.05 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

1926.05. (a) In addition to the duties specified in Section 1926, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice is authorized to perform the duties pursuant to Section 1910.5, in the following settings:

- (1) Residences of the homebound.
- (2) Schools.
- (3) Residential facilities and other institutions.

(b) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice is authorized to perform the duties pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 1910.5 in the settings specified in this section under the general supervision of a dentist.

SEC. 8. Section 1944 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

1944. (a) The committee shall establish by resolution the amount of the fees that relate to the licensing of a registered dental hygienist, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, and a registered dental hygienist in extended functions. The fees established by board resolution in effect on June 30, 2009, as they relate to the licensure of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, and registered dental hygienists in extended functions, shall remain in effect until modified by the committee. The fees are subject to the following limitations:

(1) The application fee for an original license and the fee for issuance of an original license shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(2) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist shall not exceed the actual cost of the examination.

(3) For third- and fourth-year dental students, the fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist shall not exceed the actual cost of the examination.

(4) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist in extended functions shall not exceed the actual cost of the examination.

(5) The fee for examination for licensure as a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall not exceed the actual cost of administering the examination.

(6) The biennial renewal fee shall not exceed one hundred sixty dollars (\$160).

(7) The delinquency fee shall not exceed one-half of the renewal fee. Any delinquent license may be restored only upon payment of all fees, including the delinquency fee, and compliance with all other applicable requirements of this article.

(8) The fee for issuance of a duplicate license to replace one that is lost or destroyed, or in the event of a name change, shall not exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25) or one-half of the renewal fee, whichever is greater.

(9) The fee for certification of licensure shall not exceed one-half of the renewal fee.

(10) The fee for each curriculum review and site evaluation for educational programs for dental hygienists who are not accredited by a

committee-approved agency shall not exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100).

(11) The fee for each review or approval of course requirements for licensure or procedures that require additional training shall not exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750).

(12) The initial application and biennial fee for a provider of continuing education shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).

(13) The amount of fees payable in connection with permits issued under Section 1962 is as follows:

(A) The initial permit fee is an amount equal to the renewal fee for the applicant's license to practice dental hygiene in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which the permit is issued.

(B) If the permit will expire less than one year after its issuance, then the initial permit fee is an amount equal to 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect on the last regular renewal date before the date on which the permit is issued.

(b) The renewal and delinquency fees shall be fixed by the committee by resolution at not more than the current amount of the renewal fee for a license to practice under this article nor less than five dollars (\$5).

(c) Fees fixed by the committee by resolution pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the approval of the Office of Administrative Law.

(d) Fees collected pursuant to this section shall be collected by the committee and deposited into the State Dental Hygiene Fund, which is hereby created. All money in this fund shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, be used to implement the provisions of this article.

(e) No fees or charges other than those listed in this section shall be levied by the committee in connection with the licensure of registered dental hygienists, registered dental hygienists in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienists in extended functions.

(f) The fee for registration of an extramural dental facility shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(g) The fee for registration of a mobile dental hygiene unit shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

(h) The biennial renewal fee for a mobile dental hygiene unit shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(i) The fee for an additional office permit shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(j) The biennial renewal fee for an additional office as described in Section 1926.4 shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

(k) The initial application and biennial special permit fee is an amount equal to the biennial renewal fee specified in paragraph (6) of subdivision (a).

(l) The fees in this section shall not exceed an amount sufficient to cover the reasonable regulatory cost of carrying out the provisions of this article.

SEC. 9. Section 128196 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

128196. (a) Notwithstanding Section 128180, the office shall extend the duration of the health workforce project known as Health Workforce Pilot Project No. 172 until January 1, 2016, in order to maintain the competence of the clinicians trained during the course of the project, and to authorize training of additional clinicians in the duties specified in HWPP No. 172.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2016, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2016, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 10. Section 14132.725 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

14132.725. (a) To the extent that federal financial participation is available, face-to-face contact between a health care provider and a patient is not required under the Medi-Cal program for teleophthalmology, teledermatology, and teledentistry by store and forward. Services appropriately provided through the store and forward process are subject to billing and reimbursement policies developed by the department.

(b) For purposes of this section, “teleophthalmology, teledermatology, and teledentistry by store and forward” means an asynchronous transmission of medical or dental information to be reviewed at a later time by a physician at a distant site who is trained in ophthalmology or dermatology or, for teleophthalmology, by an optometrist who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 3000) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, or a dentist, where the physician, optometrist, or dentist at the distant site reviews the medical or dental information without the patient being present in real time. A patient receiving teleophthalmology, teledermatology, or teledentistry by store and forward shall be notified of the right to receive interactive communication with the distant specialist physician, optometrist, or dentist and shall receive an interactive communication with the distant specialist physician, optometrist, or dentist, upon request. If requested, communication with the distant specialist physician, optometrist, or dentist may occur either at the time of the consultation, or within 30 days of the patient’s notification of the results of the consultation. If the reviewing optometrist identifies a disease or condition requiring consultation or referral pursuant to Section 3041 of the Business and Professions Code, that consultation or referral shall be with an ophthalmologist or other appropriate physician and surgeon, as required.

(c) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department may implement, interpret, and make specific this section by means of all-county letters, provider bulletins, and similar instructions.