

Future of Dentistry

Workgroup Focus Areas

The Future of Dentistry workgroup brings together dentists with diverse backgrounds and specialties to apply thoughtful engagement and critical thinking to examine the complex issues facing the profession.

Through surveys and discussions, the workgroup has identified several focus areas that could influence dentistry in the coming years. These topics are helping guide the workgroup's exploration, research, synthesis and recommendations.

The Payment Ecosystem

- Future of reimbursement and payment innovation

Scope: Investigate the feasibility of alternative payment models and the potential impact of integrating dental into medical insurance frameworks.

The Care Delivery System

- Systemic integration and medical-dental convergence

Scope: Analyze the evolving relationship between dental practices and larger medical/health systems. Investigate how shared payer networks and integrated delivery models could alter dentistry, and explore the administrative, financial, and clinical ramifications.

The Clinical Experience

- Clinical governance and the future of professional autonomy

Scope: Examine the shifting power dynamics within the operator, investigating how payor policies and corporate structures influence clinical care. Determine how the profession can use research and education to reclaim leadership and proactively drive the evolution of clinical standards.

- Technology and the AI transformation

Scope: Explore the impact of technology, especially how artificial intelligence (AI) is infiltrating the profession; from clinical diagnostic tools and automated billing, reception, and scheduling to the legal implications of AI-driven care.

Keep connected to the Future of Dentistry webpage for updates on the group's findings and progress.

