

Distribution Information

AAE members may reprint this position statement for distribution to patients or referring dentists.

About This Document

The following statement was approved by the AAE Board of Directors in October 2017.

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The guidance in this statement is not intended to substitute for a clinician's independent judgment in light of the conditions and needs of a specific patient.

Access to Care

AAE Position Statement

The American Association of Endodontists is dedicated to the highest standards of excellence in endodontic care. We support our members' pursuit of excellence through research and education, leadership and advocacy, and philanthropy and service.

- Many Americans experience significant access barriers to oral health care that negatively impact overall health, including losing teeth that could have been saved. According to the [ADA Health Policy Institute](#), every 14 seconds an American visits a hospital emergency department with a dental condition. In 2014, \$1.9 billion was spent on emergency department visits for dental conditions.
- Good dental care is important to overall health, yet creating better access to oral health care is a complex and vexing issue. It is influenced by regulatory (state and federal), socioeconomic and several other factors.
- The AAE supports advocacy efforts by the ADA and other dental organizations to expand access to dental care. We also support programs that provide fair payment to dentists providing that care through government programs. The AAE also encourages efforts to ensure that Congress continues to fund oral health research.
- The AAE urges members to stay engaged with these legislative issues by participating in the [ADA Grass Roots Action network](#), supporting their state dental association's advocacy efforts and contributing to ADPAC's efforts to elect members of Congress who support dentistry.
- Dentists provide a remarkable amount of charitable care, and endodontists are no exception. Endodontists provide charitable care endodontic services for the underserved in their offices, at local community clinics, at local access to care events and through mission trips. The AAE encourages all endodontists to provide charitable care. These charitable acts also help educate the public about the role of endodontists in saving natural teeth.
- In addition, in 2016, the AAE Foundation (Foundation for Endodontics) expanded its mission to include providing access to endodontic care for underserved patients. The Foundation's goal is to provide funding for international and domestic access to care projects undertaken by AAE members.