



DHCA TELERADIOLOGY

Policy

Department: Policy and Regulation- Healthcare Operators &
Healthcare Professionals

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DHCA TELERADIOLOGY- POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Teleradiology, a category of telehealth, utilizes technologies to allow healthcare professionals to provide guidance to radiologists and others involved in the delivery of radiological services with the aim of defining good practice, advancing the practice of radiology and improving the service for the benefit of patients.

For the purpose of this policy, teleradiology is defined as follows: the electronic transmission of diagnostic radiological images in digital form between locations (Acquisition Site to Reporting Site) for diagnosis and reporting by a clinical radiologist.

This policy has been developed by Dubai Healthcare City Authority- Regulatory (DHCR), the regulatory arm of Dubai Healthcare City Authority, to provide healthcare operators and healthcare professionals licensed by DHCA the requirements in the development and implementation of teleradiology services in accordance with relevant Regulations, Policies, and Standards.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the *DHCA Teleconsultation Policy*.

1- Applicable To:

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| 1.1 | All Healthcare Operators and Healthcare Professionals licensed by DHCA providing or intending to provide teleradiology services. |
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2- Policy:

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| 2.1 | <p>Service Delivery:</p> <p>2.1.1 DHCA Licensed Healthcare Operators and Professionals must comply with all requirements as identified in <i>sections 2.1 and 2.2</i> of the <i>DHCA Teleconsultation Policy</i>.</p> <p>2.1.2 All Healthcare Professionals utilizing teleradiology platforms must be licensed by DHCA as Radiology Specialists.</p> <p>2.1.3 All Healthcare Operators providing teleradiology services must have Radiology registered as an approved service prior to commencing.</p> <p>2.1.4 Teleradiology scope of service will need to be submitted for approval by the Authority prior to commencement of service. Supporting governance and operational documents should be made available upon request of the Authority.</p> <p>2.1.5 Once approved, Licensed Healthcare Operators and Professionals are held accountable to deliver the service based on the approved scope of service and all other applicable policies and regulatory documents as identified by the Authority.</p> |
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2.2	<p>Data transfer:</p> <p>2.2.1 Patient consent must be obtained before any transfer of data is initiated.</p> <p>2.2.2 There should be clear and transparent systems in place for rapid, secure transfer and review of images and, where necessary, storage of patient data.</p> <p>2.2.3 Data transfer must be secure so that patient confidentiality is maintained.</p> <p>2.2.4 Licensed Healthcare Operators providing Teleradiology services must comply with all applicable rules and regulations including <i>Federal Law no (2) of 2019- Using IT and Telecommunications in the Healthcare Sector</i>.</p>
2.3	<p>Reporting:</p> <p>2.3.1 All reports must be in compliance with the DHCA Medical Record Policy requirements for the maintenance and management of a patient's health record.</p> <p>2.3.2 Teleradiologists should be using equipment (hardware and software) of the same standard as would be expected in the base hospital in order to be able to generate quality reports while maintaining patient confidentiality and the integrity of the complete medical record.</p>
2.4	<p>Communication of the results:</p> <p>2.4.1 The same DHCA Licensed Healthcare Professional should interpret the examination and issue the report to the referring clinician and should be clearly identified.</p> <p>2.4.2 All results should be communicated and integrated into the base hospital's radiology information system, and/ or an external system such as; picture archiving and communications system (PACS), in addition to the patient's medical record.</p> <p>2.4.3 Where results are especially urgent, best practice dictates that the teleradiologist should have a discussion with the referrer and/or the responsible clinician, known as a teleconsultation.</p> <p>2.4.4 DHCA Healthcare Operators and Licensed Radiologists conducting teleconsultations as part of the teleradiology service must be compliant with the technical and communication requirements as identified in <i>section 2.3</i> of the <i>DHCA Teleconsultation Policy</i>.</p> <p>2.4.5 As the reporting radiologist, the DHCA Licensed Teleradiologist must be available for ongoing discussions and any clarifications of initial report.</p> <p>2.4.6 Any and all verbal opinions given during discussions must be documented in the patient's medical record.</p>
2.5	<p>Quality assurance:</p> <p>2.5.1 All DHCA Licensed Healthcare Operators initiating teleradiology services must insure that teleradiology is a part of an integrated radiology service with the technology and equipment required to support such service.</p> <p>2.5.2 This service is subject to the same organizational policy framework as the rest of the</p>

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services, with all participating radiologists working within a clearly documented quality assurance framework in line with DHCA Rules and Regulations.

2.6 Medicolegal considerations:

2.6.1 Patients should be provided with information regarding the outsourcing of imaging interpretation with consents obtained and maintained in the medical record.

2.6.2 The medicolegal responsibilities of the referring hospital or provider and those of the reporting teleradiology service must be clearly defined and maintained by the Healthcare Operators.

2.6.3 Teleradiology service operating documents must be explicit regarding who retains responsibility for the care of the patient for not only organizations contracting out teleradiology services, but also for the patients within the organizations receiving teleradiology services.

2.6.4 Licensed Healthcare Operators and Professionals conducting teleradiology services outside of the approved scope of service are subject to violation including suspension or termination of the service by the Authority.

3- Communication: (Check all that apply)

Announcement

Awareness

Training

Other specify

4- Definitions:

4.1 Definitions and abbreviations available on DHCR website documents under technical references or via this link:

<https://www.dhcr.gov.ae/en/laws-and-regulations/handbooks-and-technical-references>

5- References :

5.1 American College of Radiology- Teleradiology Guidelines

5.2 DHCA Teleconsultation Policy

5.3 DHCA Medical Records Policy

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5.4 Royal College of Radiology- Teleradiology Standard

Revision History

S No:	Summary	Amend Type*	Page	Issue No.	Issue Date
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

* Amend Type: New- Add – Modify – Cancel