



ATA and ATA Action Virtual Foodcare Policy Principles

The ATA Policy Principles for Virtual Foodcare, inspired by the [ATA Policy Principles](#), provide a clear framework for developing and supporting policies that promote the delivery of personalized dietary interventions and nutritional guidance within the healthcare system via telehealth platforms. This model supports the integration of healthy, nutritious food as a fundamental component of healthcare, irrespective of the patient's location. This approach leverages telehealth and virtual care technologies to deliver food and nutritional support to maintain health, prevent disease, and manage chronic conditions. Virtual Foodcare aims to enhance health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs by making expert nutritional advice and support widely accessible and effective through innovative technology.

Ensure Patient Choice, Access, and Satisfaction: Provide access to nutritious food and dietary support through virtual care platforms, regardless of location. Ensure that Virtual Foodcare programs include accommodations for people with disabilities. Support educational programs that supplement nutrition services and promote the development of nutritional skills for health.

Enhance Provider Autonomy: Empower virtual healthcare providers to integrate nutritional guidance and food-based treatments into patient care plans.

Expand Reimbursement and Advocate for Coverage of Tele-Nutrition Services: Support the expansion of reimbursement for virtual nutritional counseling and Virtual Foodcare programs, aligning this effort with broader support for coverage parity. Advocate for the inclusion of nutrition services in commercial and public payer plans to ensure that these services are accessible both in person and virtually, thereby promoting comprehensive, accessible care that meets modern healthcare needs.





Enable Nutritional Healthcare Delivery Across State Lines: Facilitate interstate collaboration and address practice authority barriers for dietitians, pharmacists, and other appropriate healthcare providers delivering virtual consultations.

Ensure Access to Non-Physician Providers: Remove barriers for dietitians, pharmacists, and other appropriate healthcare professionals to participate in healthcare teams and provide virtual care.

Expand Access for Underserved and At-risk Populations: Focus on providing nutritious food and dietary support to underserved communities by investing in telehealth and digital infrastructure.

Support Seniors and Expand “Aging in Place”: Promote access to virtual programs offering nutritious food and dietary support for seniors, aiding their health and independence.

Protect Patient Privacy and Mitigate Cybersecurity Risks: Ensure nutritional counseling and food-as-medicine programs conducted via telehealth adhere to privacy and cybersecurity standards.

Ensure Program Integrity: Implement robust safeguards to ensure food-as-medicine telehealth programs are effective, fraud-free, and beneficial.



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