

DRAFT: Digital Equity/Digital Health Equity

1 **Digital Equity**

2 Digital equity may be defined as equal access and opportunity to digital tools, resources, and services to
3 increase digital knowledge, awareness, and skills, and achieving digital equity will advance the health
4 and wellbeing of all North Carolinians. The North Carolina Medical Society supports efforts to ensure
5 equitable access to the internet, digital tools, resources, up-to-date hardware and software, relevant
6 content and services, and educational opportunities to promote digital literacy skills.

7 **Digital Health Equity**

8 Digital health equity, a fundamental element of broader digital equity, requires equal access to digital
9 health care and equal outcomes from digital health care regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, income,
10 and/or geography. Access to health equipment, information, and training opportunities should be
11 equitably available across the state and adaptive to individuals' diverse needs, skills, identities,
12 languages, abilities and disabilities, life states, and experiences.

13 The North Carolina Medical Society supports the following efforts to achieve digital health equity for all
14 North Carolinians:

- 15 • Promote efforts to bolster connectivity by improving high-speed Internet infrastructure and
16 increased availability to all individuals
- 17 • Promote the development and use of digital technologies to improve health including
18 telehealth, mobile health apps, online health services and tools, and other technology that
19 supports virtual care
- 20 • Promote efforts to ensure affordable and accessible technological devices and technical support
21 for historically underrepresented populations, organizations, and communities
- 22 • Promote efforts to incorporate digital health equity into health provider training at the
23 individual and institutional level
- 24 • Promote efforts to ensure health care providers, health systems, insurers, and government
25 agencies have digital health strategies that identify and address potential gaps in digital health
26 care and consider patients' sociocultural backgrounds and digital health literacy
- 27 • Promote efforts to address language barriers by integrating translation services into digital
28 health technologies
- 29 • Promote ongoing quality improvement processes to ensure timely identification of inequities
30 within digital health care and to generate systems-level solutions

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