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Member Newsletter



November 25, 2009



May your holiday be filled with wonderful moments and special memories.

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Upcoming Events

December 4, 2009
10 to 11 a.m.
Oral Care and the Patient with Autism Webinar

January 15, 2010
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Time for an Infection Control Check-Up? Webinar

June 10-11, 2010
Annual Conference
Downtown Lansing

Staff

Karlene Ketola
Executive Director
517.381.8000

Coalition News

2009-10 Call for Volunteers Continues

Coalition Needs You; Sign Up by December 1

Now is the time that opportunity is knocking! The Michigan Oral Health Coalition is currently seeking volunteers for these 2009-10 Workgroups and Committees: CDC Grant Workgroup; Legislative Workgroup; Continuing Education Workgroup; Membership Committee, and Governance and Nominating Committee. Now is your chance to get involved in creating professional development opportunities, serve your profession and play a vital role in growing the Coalition. To volunteer, click [here](#).

Strategies for Treating Patients with Autism

December 4 Webinar on Communication, Legal Issues

Providing oral care to people with autism requires adaptation of the skills you use every day. In fact, most people with mild or moderate forms of autism can be treated successfully in the general practice setting. Join us Dec. 4 for strategies to treat your patient with autism spectrum disorders. Registration Fee: \$40. To register, click [here](#).

"What Oral Health Providers Need to Know"

Coalition Releases Free Booklets on Abuse and Neglect

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition with funding from Verizon Wireless has released its three "What Oral Health Providers Need to Know" booklets. A professional collaboration of member policy specialists, social workers and hygienists created the booklets to educate oral health professionals on how to respond if they suspect abuse or neglect in a patient. To order copies of the "What Oral Health Providers Need to Know" about domestic violence, elder abuse and child abuse and neglect booklets, call 517.381.8000 today.



State News

Dental Crisis Looming in State, Experts Say

[Lansing State Journal Reports on Adult Dental](#)

Ext. 218

Jacqui Day hasn't seen a dentist for a checkup for more than a year. And she's bracing herself for the dull, throbbing pain ahead.

One of 400,000 Michigan adults who lost Medicaid dental coverage with state budget cuts in July, the 60-year-old Lansing woman remembers what happened the last time Michigan eliminated the benefit in 2003.

Because Day couldn't afford dental care, a tooth infection set in, causing complications that resulted in her being hospitalized for days in a critical care unit.

"I almost died," said Day, who uses a wheelchair because of rheumatoid arthritis. "I'm afraid that people will wind up in emergency rooms (with the new budget cuts) and it's going to cost a lot more money."

Mid-Michigan dental professionals are bracing for increased demand at clinics that serve the uninsured. One clinic is already seeing more cases of acute dental problems, such as severe tooth decay or infection, as low-income people forgo routine cleanings. [See full article.](#)

CHAMPS Issues Related to Denials and Codes

[MDCH Website Addresses System Issues](#)

On Monday, the Michigan Department of Community Health posted the following two CHAMPS updates.

November 23, 2009: [Urgent/Emergent Adult Dental Claims Denial](#)

In July, non-emergency dental benefits were eliminated for Medicaid beneficiaries 21 and over (Executive Order 2009-22). Only a few specific urgent/emergent dental services are currently billable for beneficiaries 21 and older. Claims for beneficiaries 21 and over receiving urgent/emergent dental services were being denied in CHAMPS with the reason code 17 and remark code N379.

There are three errors here:

1. The urgent/emergent dental services should not have been denied. This has now been corrected and providers may rebill or replace any affected claims by either HIPAA 837 or via the CHAMPS Manage Claims screens.
2. If the services were in fact non-emergent then the claim denial should have had a different HIPAA reason and remark code explanation. The change necessary to display the correct CARC and RARC when non-urgent/emergent adult services are billed is scheduled to be corrected in December.
3. The only exception for continued payment of the non-emergent services was if the provider had a current prior authorization on file with MDCH prior to the implementation of Executive Order 2009-22. These claims are still being denied in error and should be held by providers until this correction is completed. Further guidance will be shared when an exact implementation date is known.

November 23, 2009: [Dental Procedure Code Correction](#)

The combination of procedure code D1351 and tooth number 19 was not recognized. This has now been corrected and Providers may rebill.

National News

School-Based Dental Sealants Programs [Updated Recommendations Available](#)

Recommendations designed to provide additional guidance to school-based dental sealant programs have been published in the November issue of the Journal of the American Dental Association. The [updated recommendations](#), "Preventing Dental Caries Through School-based Sealant Programs: Updated Recommendations and Reviews of Evidence," were developed by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-supported work group of experts in the fields of caries prevention and treatment, oral epidemiology, and evidence-based reviews, as well as representatives of dental professional organizations.

United States Faces Dentist Shortage [Canadian Medical Association Report](#)

The number of practicing dentists in the United States is projected to start declining in 2014, which will likely exacerbate an existing problem: the unwillingness of many to practice in rural areas. Further compounding the problem are such factors as a continuing migration from general practice to specialties like orthodontics, the closure of dental schools, a decrease in the size of graduating classes, the forthcoming mass retirement of older dentists and the growing number of female dentists, who tend to work fewer hours than their male colleagues. Another problem on the dental health front is that dentists are working fewer hours. Dentists are also increasingly choosing to specialize rather than go into general practice. [See Report.](#)

Businesses National Forecast: [Recession Over, Unemployment Remains High](#)

The national economic recession that began at the close of 2007 ended sometime this past summer, but the recovery will be slow and joblessness will remain high, according to the University of Michigan's annual economic forecast released Nov. 22, 2009.

The forecast projects growth in the U.S. gross domestic product of 2.3 percent in 2010, followed by 2.6 percent growth in 2011 after a projected decline of 2.5 percent in 2009. But unemployment will continue to worsen in 2010, reaching about 10.4 percent early in the year. Economists at UM's Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics said job growth would be gradual, with unemployment still hovering at 9.5 percent at end of 2011.

One encouraging economic sign: the UM projection on housing starts. After declining 75 percent from early 2006 to early 2009, the forecast projects 1.3 million units built by late 2011, more than double 2009's estimate of 568,000 units built. [See full release.](#)

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition's mission is to improve oral health in Michigan by focusing on prevention, health promotion, oral health data, access and the link between oral health and overall health.

Michigan Oral Health Coalition
7215 Westshire Drive

Lansing, MI 48917
Phone: 517.381.8000
Fax: 517.381.8008
www.mohc.org

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