

Member Newsletter

December 22, 2010



Coalition News

Medicaid Billing and CHAMPS

Coalition Webinar Scheduled January 10

With the reinstatement of adult dental, Registered Dental Hygienists soon to be approved providers and recent changes to CHAMPS, many dental providers have questions related to Medicaid. The Michigan Oral Health Coalition invites you and your staff to participate in a CHAMPS webinar. Join us Jan. 10, from 12 to 1 p.m. for "Medicaid Billing and CHAMPS." The program is a great opportunity for the entire dental office staff to learn firsthand about the CHAMPS system and get answers to those nagging billing questions. Fee: \$25. To register, click [here](#).

Join Us on Facebook

Coalition Fan List Continues to Grow

Our "fan list" continues to grow! Do you have friends, family or colleagues that would benefit from periodic news on issues impacting oral health?

Visit www.facebook.com and search "Michigan Oral Health Coalition."



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State News

New MDCH Director and MDCH Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Named

Governor-elect Rick Snyder has announced the appointment of Olga Dazzo as director of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). Ms. Dazzo is a seasoned professional in the health insurance industry, most recently serving as president of the Miami-based company Health Reform Innovations LLC. She is a past president of Physicians Health Plan.

Also of interest to Coalition members is all Senate Committee chairs have



Whatever is joyful,
whatever is bright,
whatever is happy~
that's what you're
wished today
and always.

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been announced. Sen.-elect John Moolenaar (R-Midland) will chair the Department of Community Health Appropriations Subcommittee. The Coalition staff will continue to keep members updated.

Electronic Health Record Incentive Program Medicaid Issues Draft Policy Bulletin MSA 10-64

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides the opportunity for state Medicaid programs to improve the nation's healthcare by authorizing incentives for certain eligible professionals for the meaningful use of Electronic Health Records. Dentists are included in the list of eligible professionals. Click [here](#) to read the complete bulletin; comments are due Jan. 19.

National News

Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program HHS Announces New Application Cycle

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has announced a new application cycle for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program. NHSC offers primary care medical, nursing, dental, and mental health clinicians up to \$60,000 to repay student loans in exchange for 2 years of service at health care facilities in medically underserved areas. Clinicians may apply on the NHSC Loan Repayment [website](#), where they will find tutorials and information to assist in the application process.

For Now, Reality of Tooth Decay Outweighs Concerns Over Sealant

Dental sealants can reduce tooth decay in children by more than 70%. Although highly effective, sealants pose concerns. They are made with bisphenol A (BPA), a controversial and ubiquitous synthetic chemical that in low doses has been associated with changes in behavior, prostate and urinary tract development, and early onset of puberty. The American Dental Association says there's no basis for health concerns relative to BPA exposure from any dental material, but BPA researcher Fred vom Saal calls lack of information about the different sealants a "big problem." Tooth decay is a serious medical condition, and for some children, sealants are necessary. [See article](#). **Source:** Chicago Tribune, Dec. 14, 2010

Oral Health Care and Pregnancy Outcomes American Journal of Public Health Publishes Study

The study "An Examination of Periodontal Treatment, Dental Care and Pregnancy Outcomes in an Insured Population" has been published online by the American Journal of Public Health. The study found that women who received preventive dental care had fewer birth complications than women who received no treatment. The study was conducted by Columbia University College of Dental Medicine and the Mailman School of Public Health with Aetna Dental. **Source:** Insurance News Net, Dec. 8, 2010

2011 Summer Dental Student Award

Upcoming Events

CDC Workgroup
Conference Call
January 6, 2011
8 to 9 a.m.

Continuing Ed
Workgroup
Conference Call
January 7, 2011
3 to 4 p.m.

Medicaid Billing and
CHAMPS Webinar
January 10, 2011
12 to 1 p.m.

Legislative Workgroup
Conference Call
January 13, 2011
10 to 11 a.m.

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Applications Due January 15

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) [Summer Dental Student Award](#) is designed to give talented dental students hands-on research experience and exposure to the latest advances in oral health research. Selected candidates are assigned to mentors who conduct research in the students' areas of interest. NIDCR is accepting on-line applications for the Summer Dental Student Award through Jan. 15. For additional information, please contact Dr Deborah Philp, Program Director, at 301.594.6578.

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

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