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## Member Newsletter



### Coalition News

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#### Legislature Passes 1% Medical Claims Tax Necessary Component to the FY 2012 Budget

Yesterday, both the House and Senate passed SB 347 and SB 348, which would enable Michigan to continue collecting about \$1.2 billion in state and federal money. Both bills have now been sent to Governor Rick Snyder for signature. If signed into law, there would be a 1 percent tax on all health insurance claims effective Jan. 1, 2012.

The legislation exempts federal Medicare, employee and veterans administration claims, as well as fee-for-service Medicaid claims. Out of pocket co-pays, deductibles and coinsurance for individuals, as well as casualty insurance payments, also would not be subject to the 1 percent tax. The claims tax has been a necessary component in FY 2012 budget discussions and will maintain Medicaid reimbursement rates at current levels--including Medicaid adult dental.

#### 2011 Member Survey Coming Soon by Mail and E-mail

Coalition members will soon receive a 2011 Member Survey by mail and e-mail. Our goal is to identify which areas of information, personal and professional development, education and advocacy members are most interested in. The survey should only a few minutes to complete, but will be of great assistance to the board of directors and staff. Thank you in advance for your help. We look forward to hearing from you.

### State News

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#### Summits Planned on Governor's Health Priorities Michigan Call to Action on Obesity and Infant Mortality

Join health care advocates from across the state this fall to two Summits related to reducing obesity and infant mortality. Coalition members are encouraged to participate as we look to identify ways to "message" the relationship between optimal oral health to obesity and infant mortality.

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Michigan Obesity Summit  
 September 21, 2011  
 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Lansing Center, Lansing  
[Registration Form](#)

Michigan Infant Mortality Summit  
 October 17, 2011  
 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti at Eaglecrest, Ann Arbor  
[Registration Form](#)

## MDCH to Assess Priority Health Needs Oral Health Advocates Encouraged to Attend a Meeting

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), in partnership with the Michigan Health & Hospital Association and MPRO, are currently conducting meetings to assess the priority health needs of Michigan citizens. Coalition members are encouraged to participate and increase awareness of the direct link between oral and systemic health.

### Upcoming Meetings

Troy: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 26 at the MSU Management Education Center on Square Lake Road. For more information, contact Kathy Forzley at (248) 858-1410.

Gaylord: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Otsego Club. For more information, contact Jane Sundmacher at [j.sundmacher@nwhealth.org](mailto:j.sundmacher@nwhealth.org).

## Head Start Seminars Focus on Age-1 Visits Head Start Dental Home Initiative Series

Michigan's Head Start Dental Home Initiative is offering a series of seminars during the next few months that will help teach dentists and hygienists how to treat young children at age-1 dental visits as well as managing the needs of Head Start children. The seminars are being conducted by Dr. Dan Briskie, former Coalition Board Chair and a pediatric dentist from Rochester Hills. The CE courses are free, with funding by a grant from the Office of Head Start. Each course begins at 8 a.m. and runs until 12:30 p.m., with four CE credits available for course completion.

The CE courses will be held:

Friday, Sept. 16 at the Franklin Inn in Bad Axe  
 Friday, Oct. 14 in Gaylord (location to be announced)  
 Friday, Nov. 11 in Mason County (location to be announced)  
 Friday, Jan. 13 at the MDA office in Okemos  
 Friday, Feb. 10 in Kalamazoo (location to be announced).

For more information, contact the office of Dr. Jehan Wakeem, project director, at 586.773.4550. **Source:** Michigan Dental Association

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.

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