



Coalition News

Legislative Action Day Scheduled July 15; Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Reinstatement

Will you be in Lansing next Wednesday? Plan now to join us July 15 for a Legislative Action Day on the Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit Reinstatement. The Michigan Oral Health Coalition has partnered with the Michigan Council for Maternal & Child Health, Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging, Macomb Oakland Regional Center, Michigan Dental Association, Michigan Dental Assistants Association, Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association and Michigan Primary Care Association for the event. Please RSVP by noon on Tuesday, July 14 if you plan to attend. If you need help scheduling visits with your state legislators, please contact Karlene Ketola, executive director at (517) 381-8000, Ext. 218.

MDCH and MOHC Partner on Special Care Dentistry Conference July 22

A FREE, live video conference for all dental providers is scheduled July 22 (5 to 8 p.m.) at multiple viewing location sites. This FREE CE course is designed to provide participants with the tools necessary to increase their comfort level in treating patients with disabilities. The conference is brought to you by the Michigan Department of Community Health, New York Office of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities and Michigan Oral Health Coalition. For more information, contact Jill Moore at (517) 373-4943 or moorej14@michigan.gov. See the attached flyer for details.

Outreach Event for MOHC: “Celebrating Our Recovery with Laughter & Humor”

On July 23, the Michigan Department of Community Health will host its 2009 Consumer Conference in East Lansing. MOHC will be pairing up with the University of Detroit Mercy at an informational table to offer oral health advocacy. The conference is for staff, advocates, or consumers who have or know someone with a mental illness. For more information, click [here](#).

HRSA Workforce Grant Update

The HRSA Workforce grant is in the homestretch. Jill Moore, Oral Health Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Community Health is putting the final touches on the *Special Care Dentistry Conference*. Mel Christensen, Project Coordinator for MOHC is wrapping up the *Mentorship Program*. While most of the projects are complete for the grant, it is now our responsibility to produce published reporting on our tasks and research. You can find *Addressing Dental Workforce in the State of Michigan* by Jill Moore [here](#). We will be sure to link all reports, data, and projects on the MOHC website as they become available.

State News

Medicaid Billing Changes Effective July 1

In response to Executive Order 2009-22, the Michigan Department of Community Health has eliminated certain covered service benefits to Medicaid beneficiaries age 21 and older, and is implementing program/fee reductions effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2009. The specific covered service benefit eliminations and provider fee reductions are described below.

Procedure Code Short Description:

D0140 Limited oral evaluation-problem focused
D0220 Intraoral, periapical, first film
D0230 Intraoral, periapical, each additional film
D7140 Extraction, erupted tooth or exposed root
D7210 Extraction of tooth, erupted
D7220 Extraction of tooth, soft tissue impaction
D7230 Extraction of tooth, partial bony impaction
D7240 Extraction of tooth, complete bony impaction
D7260 Oroantral fistula closure
D7261 Primary closure of a sinus perforation
D7510 Incision and Drainage (intraoral soft tissue)
D9999 Unspecified, adjunctive procedure, by report

Only these services are covered for beneficiaries age 21 and older (including nursing facility residents) unless a beneficiary has a prior authorization on file on or before June 30, 2009. Only prior authorization requests received on or before June 30, 2009 will be processed. **Source:** Bulletin 09-28, Medical Services Administration

Varnish! Michigan Program News for FY 2010; Medicaid Medical Providers Encouraged to Participate

As part of Varnish! Michigan, the Michigan Department of Community Health encourages Medicaid medical providers to incorporate oral screenings and apply fluoride varnish to infant and toddler teeth at well baby, EPSDT exams. The goal of [Varnish! Michigan](#) is to provide early intervention to prevent or reduce dental disease among low-income children aged birth to five. Varnish! Michigan is expected to reduce decay between 48 and 60 percent in this group of children. How does the program work? MDCH administers the program through the use of competitive grants, with priority given to Early Head Start programs. MDCH will provide free fluoride varnish for the period Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010 as supplies last. An on-line or on-site [training](#) is required for Medicaid medical providers to bill Medicaid and receive free varnish. For more information, please contact Susan Deming, RDH, RDA, BS, Education/Fluoride Coordinator at demings@michigan.gov or (517) 373-3624.

No Target Meeting This Week

Budget Director Bob Emerson and legislative leaders will not be meeting this week to set the so-called "budget targets" for FY 2010, but officials say the Administration and legislative staff are working hard to get decision makers ready for a meeting next week. After going on a two-week Independence Day break on June 26, the leaders of the House and Senate have met with Emerson once regarding an FY 2010 budget that is \$1.7 billion in debt (See "[Leaders Launch Into Target Setting](#)," 6/30/09). The major question all sides need to come to an agreement on is how much money the state should cut from the FY 2010 budget, how much will be raised in closing "tax loopholes" and how many holes will be plugged up with federal stimulus money.

No Target Meeting This Week contd. Fiscal analysts are expected to have information on how much revenue the state collected in June later this week. The Legislature is slated to return next week. The FY 2010 budget begins Oct. 1. Source: MIRS

Public Comment on Draft Title V Maternal & Child Health Block Grant Application

The Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health is inviting comments on the draft [Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant 2010 Application and 2008 Annual Report](#). The application includes a plan for services to pregnant women, mothers, children, and children with special health care needs for the period Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010, and a report on activities and performance measures for 2008. Comments may be submitted by July 13, 2009 to oganc@michigan.gov.

In the News “Cuts Bite Port Huron Clinic Patients”

Isaac Michels and the rest of the staff of the Community Dental Clinic in Port Huron see the need for Medicaid benefits for adults every day. But after today, they said they won't be able to meet those dental needs. A May executive order by Gov. Jennifer Granholm removes the state's contribution Wednesday to Medicaid funding for adult dental care.

“I think it's terrible,” said Michels, a dental assistant at the clinic. “I don't agree with it. I don't like it. ... It's not a pretty sight to see when they need something done, and they can't do anything.” Tracy Cedar, the clinic's office manager, said the cut affects about 38% of the clinic's business. The clinic has served about 7,000 patients in the year it has been open. See [complete article](#).

Cox Targets Medicaid Fraud Attorney General, Legislators Propose Outside Auditor

Yesterday, Attorney General Mike Cox and a group of Republican lawmakers proposed the creation of an independent auditor to weed out fraud and abuse in Michigan's Medicaid programs, a move they say could reap hundreds of millions of dollars in annual savings to taxpayers. Cox said moving the auditing function outside the Department that administers Medicaid, in Michigan the Department of Community Health, eliminates conflicts of interest and results in more, and more effective, investigations of fraud. A similar restructuring in New York, one of six states to create an independent auditor's office, tripled the amount recovered in a single year to \$551 million, Cox said. Michigan spends about \$10 billion a year for Medicaid, the health care insurance program for poor and disabled people. Creating the new office would be virtually cost free, he said, since the auditing function already exists and just would be moved. A spokeswoman for Gov. Jennifer Granholm said in a statement released Wednesday afternoon that the Administration "has an unwavering commitment to seek out and prosecute Medicaid fraud." But the Cox proposal potentially gives auditors unrestricted access to patient records, giving rise to "serious legal questions" about the civil rights of Medicaid recipients, she said. **Source:** Dawson Bell, Detroit Free Press

National News

Reports Spotlight Shrinking Coverage, Rising Premiums

Throughout the U.S., health care premiums and medical costs are skyrocketing while health coverage is shrinking. This is the conclusion of two new reports, one from Health Care for America NOW (HCAN) and the other from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Published in June 2009 by HCAN, *Health Insurance Coverage Keeps Shrinking as Premiums, Family Costs Climb Ever Higher* (pdf) draws on research from The Kaiser Family Foundation, The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, The State Health Access Data Assistance Center, and other sources to document the trend of rising costs and shrinking health coverage in all 50 American states.

“Across the economic spectrum of families,” the report says, “the upward march of premiums and out-of-pocket costs has been unnerving. . . . High medical costs, decreased benefits, and rising costs have real effects on the quality of care available to families.”

Specific findings include the following:

- In the past nine years, U.S. wages grew 29 percent while the cost of health insurance rose 120 percent.
- Experts forecast that 50 million Americans will be uninsured next year due to high premiums.
- Lack of health insurance causes 22,000 deaths in the U.S. each year.
- Health insurers are increasingly limiting benefits to save money.
- 62 percent of bankruptcy filers in 2007 said medical bills contributed to their debts.

Access to Dental Care Summit

On March 23, 2009, the ADA convened representatives from a variety of communities of interest to create a shared vision in order to improve the oral health of underserved populations. The Access to Dental Care Summit affirmed the dental profession’s commitment to serve as a convener and collaborator committed to finding common ground and shared solutions to one of the major health problems facing some of the nation’s most vulnerable people. Proceedings of this Summit can be [downloaded](#).

Reader’s Digest Surveys Dentists

This month’s issue features “50 Secrets Your Dentist Won’t Tell You,” a survey of 22 dentists from across the country. For the full article, click [here](#).

Acid Drinks Blamed for Increase in Tooth Erosion

People’s teeth are wearing away at a faster rate than ever, dissolving under a blistering acid attack that they’ve brought on themselves, dental experts say. Dental erosion — the loss of the protective enamel on teeth — is reportedly on the increase in the United States. The condition occurs when enamel is worn away by acids in the mouth, leaving teeth sensitive, cracked and discolored.

“Erosion is a chemical process of tooth destruction, not to be confused with abrasion, which is a mechanical process of tooth destruction,” said Dr. Melvin Pierson, a spokesman for the Academy of General Dentistry and a dentist in private practice in Sicklerville, N.J. One study, for instance, found dental erosion in about 30 percent of a group of 900 middle school students across the country. Pierson said those results, published in 2008 in the *Dental Tribune*, confirmed the suspicions many dentists had harbored. In a survey of dentists taken before the study, nearly half said they thought tooth erosion was on the rise. [See complete report](#).

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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