

Medicaid Dental Program Updates 2008 National Oral Health Conference

AZ: Bob Birdwell

- New adult dental benefit approved for Developmentally Disabled in Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS). Effective October 2007, \$1000 annually for basic services above existing benefit.
- Revised fee schedule—targeted in 2006 & 2007, resulted in updated fees (12% increase since 1999).
- Health plans can negotiate rates individually. Plans held to a viable provider network.
- Use electronic eligibility verification
- Electronic claims submission
- Reduced prior authorization
- Fluoride varnish through age 2 authorized for MDs—but funding not yet available
- Had a PIP (performance improvement project: HEDIS 59.6% CY 2006; 71.0% SCHIP age 3-19. CMS-416 utilization 45.3% in 2007
- Study should be on web site <http://www.azahcccs.gov/Studies/> (But I could not find the 2006 data)

NC: Mark Casey

- Increased rates for the third time in less than 2 years (2-3% each time); targeted endo, ortho, oral surgery, removable prosthetics codes.
- Adopting D0145 with enhanced reimbursement effective 5/1/08 (for MDs?) to create incentive to move toward dental home by age 1. Must be provided in conjunction with D1206.
- Pilot project: “Carolina Dental Home” in 3 counties to encourage use of risk assessment and coordinated referrals. Includes case management responsibilities and transportation assistance; HRSA-funded partnership with UNC, State Health Department. Also providing training for general dentists.

MD: Roosevelt Bush

- Creation of a Dental Action Committee
- Dental society is recruiting dentists.
- In 1997, Maryland went from FFS to managed care; utilization is 34% now, but most kids are receiving exam and diagnosis only, not comprehensive care.
- Increased codes for 15 services to 50% of ADA (percentiles?)
- RFP for a carve-out into a DBM underway
- New codes given fees rather than D9999
- No adult dental but MCO offers emergency services.

KY: Ken Rich

- F varnish for MDs: 2/year
- Streamlining credentialing from 9 months to 3 months; reduced enrollment forms from 72 to 12 pages, but didn't speed up processing.

- Mandatory school admission exam or screening.

CT: Larry Lipton

- Lawsuit results: 11 MCOs, down to 4; then 2 MCOs—now dental will be carved out completely as of 7/1/08.
- As of April 1, had a fee rate increase to about the 70th percentile—rates approximately tripled, and are now comparable to commercial rates (Example: 1-surface amalgam went from \$30 to \$95). Adult rates are 52% of children's rates. New rate schedule available at http://www.ctmedicalprogram.com/prmanuals/fee_dental_20080401.pdf.

GA: Mark Ritz (President-Elect GA Dental Assn.)

- Since managed care implemented, 1400 providers now down to 600, or closer to 400 dentists.
- Utilization seems to be down, but not sure.
- Reimbursement is below 10% UCR; fees keep dropping and utilization has become worse.
- Provider networks are closed except for specialists.
- 2008: 2.5% increase in reimbursement this year???

SD: Nance Orsbon

- 2007 – Reduced prior authorization requests.
- Fees: Increased to 75% of 2006 Delta commercial for some procedures with the understanding that if it resulted in an increase in access, rates for other procedures would also be increased. This happened, so rates for the rest of the procedures are being increased, plus 4% additional increase.
- New:
 - Developmentally Disabled pilot project: dentists who are certified will be eligible to receive an enhanced \$90/visit fee for up to 3 visits plus additional cleanings and a fluoride benefit for adults.
 - Medical budget will pay for 3 F varnishes/year for primary care providers (MD, PA, NP)
 - Loan forgiveness program: \$10-25K/year, depending on provider participation rate, for up to 4 years. 18 dentists receive.
 - Two new mobile units—one for children sponsored by Ronald McDonald House, one for all ages.

FL: Ray Agrees (Miami and the Keys)

- Children's program, FFS with HMO in Miami/Dade
- Developmental Disabilities Program
- Managed care
- Pilot of prepaid program began July 2004—Miami Data—Atlantic Dental is DBM, enrolls 190,000 kids
- May 1st added F varnish program for high risk kids 0-3 years.
- Must make a referral to a dental home.

- Adults receive comprehensive oral evaluation, x-rays, extraction and surgical for full and partial, relines, repairs and adjustments, emergency procedures.
- Additional adult services for disabled: Waiver? Program includes diagnosis, root canals, prevention, restorative.
- HMOs cover at least what state plan covers.