



AUGUST 2022

CMS PROPOSED PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE, FY 2023: MEDICALLY NECESSARY ORAL/DENTAL CARE

Proposed regulation includes need for improving Medicare dental coverage – public comment needed!

On July 8, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced its 2023 Physician Fee Schedule, which would broaden reimbursement for medically necessary dental services and substantially expand access to dental care. With support from lawmakers, this proposed rule will have a profound impact on an estimated 24 million people in the United States living without dental coverage, including older adults. Featuring a medically-necessary oral health benefit in Medicare will save billions of dollars in care, and greatly improve oral and overall health outcomes for millions of people.

It's critical to note that this is the first time such a policy has ever been proposed. While limited, the policy is a very important first step. Making meaningful "medically necessary coverage," a reality could ensure that more people who need dental care in conjunction with their Medicare covered medical treatments can get the care they need to get healthy. MDAC and its partners both in Maryland and nationwide are grateful to Administrative officials, the scores of advocates, and members of Congress, who have worked for years to get us to this point. MDAC specifically wants to recognize and extend our profound gratitude to Maryland Senator Benjamin Cardin. This past June, Senator Cardin and 21 Senate colleagues sent a [letter](#) to CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to stress the need to expand coverage of medically necessary oral and dental health services to improve the health of Americans enrolled in Medicare, thereby potentially cutting costs for the program. Senator Cardin is the lead sponsor of the [Medicare Dental Benefit Act of 2021 \(S. 97\)](#), which would provide coverage for dental services under Medicare Part B. MDAC is deeply grateful to Senator Cardin for his continued leadership on Capitol Hill to improve the oral and overall health of all Americans.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are requesting public comment on its proposed physician payment rule to expand access to high-quality care, which includes access to medically necessary dental care. MDAC is working with state and national organizations on this effort and is encouraging MDAC members, partners, and stakeholders to participate by adding your [comments](#) to the proposed rule by September 6, 2022. Additional information on the CMS Proposed Regulation and the importance of including medically necessary dental care in Medicare is as follows:

- [CMS Newsroom Announcement: Calendar Year \(CY\) 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule \(Jul 07, 2022\) Medicare Parts A & B](#)
- Consortium for Medically Necessary Oral Health Coverage Public [Statement](#) on Medicare Coverage of Medically Necessary Oral and Dental Health Therapies.
- [The Time is Now for Administrative Action to Improve Medicare Dental Coverage.](#)

MARYLAND INCLUDED IN CAREQUEST INSTITUTE NATIONAL BLOG POST ON STATE DENTAL WINS

State victories secure Medicaid dental coverage for an additional 2 million nationwide

Millions of Americans, especially the historically marginalized such as people of color, those with lower incomes, or living in rural communities, cannot secure the dental care they need due to a variety of barriers like cost, coverage, and provider availability. As a result of these wide disparities across racial, ethnic, and income groups, poor oral health, can lead to a higher risk for diabetes, cardiovascular disease and stroke, complications in pregnancy and



childbirth, adverse mental health outcomes, and other conditions that are costly to treat. Blog author Stacey Auger highlights key legislative wins in 5 states, including Maryland, to create or expand Medicaid adult dental benefits, which can help reduce those disparities and improve much-needed access to dental care.

[A New Oral Health Outlook for 2 Million Americans](#)

MDAC's advocacy and education efforts to secure Maryland Medical Assistance – Dental Coverage for Adults will be featured in breakout sessions at two conferences this fall: [The 2022 Maryland Rural Health Conference](#), *Defining Rural Health and Putting the Pieces Together*, October 24-25, Rocky Gap Resort, Flintstone,

Maryland, and [The National Network for Oral Health Access \(NNOHA\) Annual Conference](#) *Forward Together: Pursuing Access, Equity, and Quality!* November 6-7, Nashville, Tennessee.

HHS APPROVES 12-MONTH EXTENSION OF POSTPARTUM MEDICAID AND CHIP COVERAGE IN HAWAII, MARYLAND AND OHIO

An estimated additional 34,000 people eligible for essential care for a year after pregnancy



On August 16, 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), formally approved the extension of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage to 12 months after pregnancy in Hawaii, Maryland, and Ohio. For Maryland, this means over 10,000 people are eligible for Medicaid or Title XXI-funded Medicaid expansion CHIP coverage for a full year after pregnancy.

"Thousands of families in Hawaii, Maryland, and Ohio will now be able to access the health care they need for a full year after pregnancy," said HHS Secretary Xavier

Becerra. "The Biden-Harris Administration has made strengthening maternal health a top priority – and extending postpartum coverage not only improves health outcomes but saves lives.....We applaud Hawaii, Maryland, and Ohio for joining our efforts to support healthy parents and babies and urge all other states to work with us in expanding access to this critical care."

In July 2021, Governor Larry Hogan announced a four-year, \$72-million program to increase Maryland mothers' and children's access to health care. "Maryland's maternal and child health care transformation is focused on prevention and early intervention," Hogan said in a statement. "By investing in access to prenatal care, postpartum care, and child health visits, we can improve a wide range of outcomes that potentially impact the health of multiple generations of Marylanders." Funding for the program is provided through the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), and other sources, including Maryland Medicaid.

During this past legislative year, the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly took significant steps to improve pregnancy outcomes and the oral and overall health of pregnant people and their babies. By expanding Medicaid postpartum coverage for all health care services, including oral health, from 60-days to 1-year, the policy ensures providers have more time to help address the medical concerns of their patients, and mothers can access the critical health care they need for optimal health outcomes. The expansion plans were codified through the enactment of Senate Bill 923 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Eligibility (Senator Mary Washington – District 43). Governor Hogan allocated funds in the state budget, and the expansion went into effect on April 1, 2022. The pregnancy and the postpartum periods provide an opportune time to address oral health issues and provide oral health education. Multiple studies continue to show that when a physician talks about oral health during pre- and post-natal visits, their patients are more likely to visit a dentist during pregnancy, practice good oral hygiene habits, and have children with fewer dental caries, which is the most common chronic childhood disease. [CMS announcement](#)

MATERNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ADDRESSES EQUITABLE CARE ***Public/Private Partnership in Montgomery County helps uninsured pregnant women***

The Maternity Partnership Program (MPP) is a public/private partnership between the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), two local hospital systems, Holy Cross Health and Adventist Health Care, and a Federally Qualified Health Center, Mary's Center. The program provides prenatal care, dental care, and home-based case management services to



uninsured pregnant women living in Montgomery County.

The Program was developed in 1989 in response to a surge in immigrants settling in the area who were ineligible for public Medicaid Assistance and unable to afford prenatal care services. In the first year, the program supported 866 pregnant women, and since that time, the number of enrolled women has grown significantly with year-to-year fluctuations based on immigration rates, pregnancy rates, and changes in Medicaid regulations. The MPP serves approximately 1,400-2,000 per year. To be eligible, a pregnant woman must be: uninsured and ineligible for

Medicaid or other insurance, have a low income (at or below 250% FPL), and living in Montgomery County.

The Partnership provides (1) Comprehensive prenatal care at either Holy Cross Hospital, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, or Mary's Center. (2) Home-based case management by a team of Public Health Nurses and Community Health Workers; and (3) Dental care provided by Montgomery County DHHS Maternity Dental Program.

The program's dental benefit is a highlight of the program for many women, as it is the first and possibly only time in their lives that they will have affordable dental care. The MPP program conducts 4 MPP orientation classes per week (2 classes up-county and 2 classes down-county). On average, 40 pregnant women attend the MPP orientation classes per week. Prior to the first prenatal care appointment, the women attend an orientation and prenatal class where they are provided with information on the program, assigned a Nurse Case Manager/Community Health Worker, and given an informational packet about the county's dental services and oral health educational pamphlets about dental care: prenatal, postnatal and for infant children. The "Dental Referral Form for Pregnant Women" provided by the Maryland Department of Health is given to each participant and must be completed by their OBGYN and returned to the dental clinic for their first dental visit. The dental program coordinator for the MPP patients calls each patient that attended the MPP orientation class, offers them a dental appointment, and schedules an appointment at one of the county DHHS dental clinics.

One of the challenges is the dental program's availability of appointments. Dental services are in such high demand with all the patient populations seen in the county (children, pregnant women, adults, and seniors) that it can be a challenge to get patients in right away. Some women are placed on a waitlist. Few pregnant women refuse dental appointments, but some prefer to delay radiographs or dental treatment until post-partum.

Many pregnant women participating in the County MPP program have little or no knowledge of the importance of oral health, and how it can affect their pregnancy and their developing fetus. Research has shown that pregnant women with poor dental health have been linked to preeclampsia, low birth weight babies, and babies with increased risk of tooth decay.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, the Maternity Dental Program provided oral health services to approximately 60% of the pregnant women enrolled in the Maternity Partnership Program. The program did not have the capacity to provide dental care to all eligible women. Additionally, the Maternity Partnership patients were not always able to access needed dental care, because of barriers to care, including transportation, childcare, and lost wages.

Unfortunately, since that pandemic began, the program has seen the numbers of pregnant women taking advantage of the dental benefits decrease dramatically. For FY22, the county dental program made infrastructure changes to increase the number of pregnant women enrolled in the MPP program receiving dental care. The DHHS dental program assigned an office service coordinator solely dedicated to coordinating dental appointments for pregnant women in the MPP program. This has helped increase access to dental services for pregnant patients, but there are many areas that need improvement.

In addition to this program, Howard County announced last spring that it is allocating \$1.3 million in its next annual budget to support underinsured and uninsured mothers and pregnant people with access to health care, regardless of immigration status.

During the 2022 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed *The Healthy Babies Equity Act*, which expands Medicaid to cover prenatal and postpartum care to pregnant people regardless of immigration status. Maryland joins seventeen other states that provide coverage to pregnant people regardless of immigration status through Medicaid or other state-established programs.

AMERICA'S HEALTH CENTERS: 2022 SNAPSHOT

National Association of Community Health Centers' Infographic: 30 Million Patients Served



healthcare to people living in areas with few primary care providers. Serving 1 in 11 people nationwide, health centers are committed to providing care to all patients, regardless of income or insurance status. In 2021, health centers marked the historic milestone of serving 30 million patients. This annual [infographic](#) produced by the National Association of Community Health Centers highlights who health centers serve, the positive health impact on patients, and their economic contributions to their communities.

Maryland to Launch *Building a Diverse and Dynamic Workforce*



The article below was submitted by the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health:

The U.S. Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has awarded the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health (OOH) \$1.6 million over four years to create programs to strengthen and diversify Maryland's dental workforce. The Maryland grant entitled *Building a Diverse and Dynamic Workforce* will address the shortage of dental professionals in Baltimore City, the Eastern Shore, and the Appalachian regions of Maryland by enhancing the presence, data collection, and resilience of the dental workforce in these regions. It will also address issues concerning rural health, health equity, and the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

According to Dr. Debony Hughes, Maryland State Dental Director, "We are both excited and grateful for this funding opportunity. *Building a Diverse and Dynamic Workforce* lets us enrich our workforce data as well as address equity to build a strong and diverse dental workforce for Maryland's future."

A highlight among the grant's initiatives is *Pathways to Bright Futures* (PBF). This program will connect youth living in Health Professional Shortage Areas (Dental HPSAs) with pathways to the dental professions. Working with an expert advisory committee, OOH will offer presentations to youth in Dental HPSAs from dental professionals, create experiential learning opportunities, provide scholarship awards for aspiring dental professionals, and hold seminars and externships at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry to encourage dental students to practice in Dental HPSAs. OOH will also launch a public awareness campaign to promote the program and hold annual recognition events at the National Museum of Dentistry.

OOH will also assess the impact COVID 19 has had on Maryland's dental workforce and equip selected local health departments with emergency preparedness and response plans to enhance their resiliency. Also, in collaboration with the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE) and Maryland Medicaid, the OOH will collect, analyze, and establish a process to make demographic and geographic data about the dental workforce available on a regular basis to relevant stakeholders.

"With millions of older adults and people with disabilities unable to afford the dental care they need to stay healthy, adding oral health coverage to Medicare is critical."

~Families USA Medicare Oral Health Coalition

[Position Statement](#)

CMS 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) proposed rule to cover dental treatments that are clinically integral to covered medical services

NEWS & RESOURCES

Access to Care

[Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on the 25th](#)

MD ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

[Anniversary of the Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#)

[Dental Researcher Tackles Oral Health Disparities Among Older Adults](#)

["Minimally-Invasive Care" Presents Opportunities to Expand Patient Choice, Access to Care and Advance Health Justice](#)

Cancer

[Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#)

COVID-19

[US dental health care workers' mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Diabetes

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

Disease Prevention

[Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia Is Killing Patients. Yet There Is a Simple Way to Stop It.](#)

[The Potential for Glycemic Control Monitoring and Screening for Diabetes at Dental Visits Using Oral Blood](#)

Health Equity

[Voices from the Field: Dr. Patrick Smith on Oral Health Challenges for Black Men](#)

[A Community-Centered Approach to Data Sharing and Policy Change: Lessons for Advancing Health Equity](#)

[Advancing Oral Health Equity: A Resource Guide](#)

[Racial and oral health disparity associated with perinatal oral health care utilization among underserved US pregnant women](#)

[Disparities in Access to Oral Health Care](#)

[POLICY CHANGE TO ADVANCE ORAL HEALTH EQUITY](#)

[Dental Therapists in the United States Health Equity, Advancing](#)



Thousands of Maryland adults are accessing dental care through the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program.

According to Maryland Medicaid, from January 1, 2022 through August 16, 2022:

- **5,267** claims were submitted
- **3,331** unique members filed valid claims
- **162** members met the annual \$800 cap
- **492** unique providers submitted claims
- **\$834,390.02** paid

From January 1, 2021 through December 28, 2021

- **9,910** claims were submitted
- **4,502** unique members filed valid claims
- **371** members met annual \$800 cap
- **594** unique providers submitted claims
- **\$1,411,465.57** paid

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

- **7,942** claims were submitted
- **4,151** unique members filed valid claims
- **313** members met annual \$800 cap
- **576** unique providers submitted claims
- **\$1,286,280.60** paid

Since the launch of the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program, Medicaid has paid **\$4,826,462.07** in dental services for thousands of Maryland adults.

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS

[How to Combat Racism in Oral Health Care](#)

Maternal and Child Health

[Strategies for Improving the Oral Health System of Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#)

[Postpartum U.S. Women's Oral Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices During Pregnancy](#)

[Attitudes and knowledge of pregnant women about oral health](#)

[Preconception Care \(Position Paper\)](#)

[Take Care of Your Teeth](#)

[USPSTF urges docs to help prevent tooth decay in young children](#)

[Rural Children's Health and Health Care](#)

[Periodontal disease during pregnancy is an epidemic](#)

Medical/Dental Integration

[New research highlights gulf between primary care, dental care](#)

[Hugh Silk, MD, MPH, Seeks Improved Oral Care Access through Increased Education](#)

[Promoting Children's Health Equity With Medical-Dental Integration](#)

[Bridging gaps in oral health education in a medical school in the United States: a pilot study](#)

Medicaid

[CMS Annual EPSDT Reporting in all 50 States plus DC](#)

Oral Health Data

[National Oral Health Data Portal](#)

[Resorting to the ED for Non-Traumatic Dental Care](#)

[Room to Grow: An Analysis of Dental and Health Care Claims in Medicaid-Enrolled Children in Arizona](#)

Oral Health Policy

Maryland Oral Health Plan

2018 - 2023



*Framework to Improve
the Oral Health of All
Marylanders*

MarylandDental
ActionCoalition

The 2018-2023 Maryland Oral Health Plan outlines 11 oral health goals in three key areas: access to oral health care, oral disease and injury prevention, and oral health literacy and education.

[DOWNLOAD THE PLAN](#)

The Maryland Oral Health Plan is financially supported by the Maryland Department of Health.

Teledentistry

[Teledentistry State Statutes and Regulations](#)

[Dentist Perceptions about the Value of Teledentistry](#)

[NNOHA Teledentistry Visit Example](#)

EVENTS

[NASHP's 35th Annual Conference
Seattle, WA | September 12-14](#)

[Exploring Disparities in Latino and Hispanic Oral Health
CareQuest Institute and the Hispanic Dental Association
September 15 at 1 p.m. ET](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control for Dental Professionals.
September 22 at 7 p.m. ET](#)

[2022 Maryland Rural Health Conference
October 24 – 25, 2022.
Rocky Gap Resort, Flintstone, Maryland](#)

[ADEA 2022 Fall Meetings, Connect, Converge,
Collaborate, October 26-27, 2022. St. Louis, MO](#)

[Important Facts About Medicare & Dental /Oral Health Coverage](#)

[Oral Health Policy Equity Tool](#)

Oral and Overall Health

[Incidence, mortality, and cost trends in nonventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia in medicaid beneficiaries, 2015-2019](#)

[Communities Care About Oral Health](#)

[Association between type 2 diabetes \(T2D\) and tooth loss: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)

Fluoridation

[National Head Start Resources to Make You Smile Issue No. 17, July, 2022](#)

[Position Statement on Individual and Professional Methods of Fluoride Use](#)

Work Force

[ADA Health Policy Institute, Economic Outlook and Emerging Issues in Dentistry. Insights from Data from July 2022.](#)

[The de Beaumont Foundation and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials have released the full data set and interactive dashboards for the Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey \(PH WINS\) 2021.](#)

[Access to Oral Health Workforce Report Part I](#)

[Impact of Community Health Workers on Access to Care for Rural Populations in the United States: A Systematic Review](#)

[Using Implementation Science to Promote Integration and Sustainability of Community Health Workers in the HIV Workforce](#)

[Hourly Wages and Turnover of Community Health Workers According to US State Certification Policy and Medicaid Reimbursement](#)

[Perspectives of Pediatric Community Health Workers: Roles, Successes, and Challenges.](#)

[National Network for Oral Health Access Conference
November 6–9, 2022 in Nashville, TN
Theme: Forward Together: Pursuing Equity, Access, and Quality](#)

[American Public Health Association Annual Meeting Theme: 150 Years of Creating the Healthiest Nation: Leading the Path Toward Equity November 6–9, 2022, Boston, MA](#)

[2023 National Oral Health Conference
April 17-19, 2023
Orlando, FL](#)

WEBINARS

[Community Catalyst Learning Community Convening. *Oral Health as an Equity Issue*. June 22, 2022. Webinar recording with written transcript \[here\]\(#\); copy of the presentation slides \[here\]\(#\).](#)

[Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion \(ODPHP\) and the National Center for Health Statistics \(NCHS\) second installment, Healthy People 2030 Webinar Series, Leveraging Healthy People 2030 to Address Issues Affecting Children, Mothers, and Families, June 22, 2022.](#)

[Health Justice Now Webinar Series Part 1: Advancing Equity in 2022: Administrative Priorities and What's Next on the Legislative Landscape
Recorded on 04/12/2022](#)

[How and Why to Set Up a Successful Medical-Dental Integration Program](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

[U.S. Senators \(MD\)](#)

[U.S. Representatives \(MD\)](#)

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

SUPPORT MDAC



Give a little to make a big impact! Your gifts, both

[Burnout among Dental Professionals Before and During a Public Health Crisis: Causes, Consequences, and Next Steps](#)

large and small, will be used to promote good oral health behaviors, prevent oral disease and injury, and improve access to oral health care for all Marylanders, no matter where they live or what their special circumstances might be. Please help us continue this important work.

DONATE NOW!

MDAC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions to support its activities are most appreciated. Thank you.



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following people to its network:

- Traci McNair, Maryland Department of Health
- Dr. Elisa Galinaitis, Kids World of Smiles, Inc
- JoAnn Zipin, Dept of Health
- Perween Torres, The Mobile Dentist
- Priyanka Agrawal
- Lisa Pittman
- Helen Rivas, MHSDP
- Samuel Risen JR.
- Ekpa Eyoma
- Jasmine Joseph

Join us! To become an MDAC member, [click here](#).

CONTACT

Do you have events or announcements you'd like to share? Contact MDAC, and we'll make every effort to include them in our next newsletter, as space permits.

Contact MDAC

JOIN

MDAC is statewide coalition of clinical care providers, governments, non-profits, academic institutions, managed care organizations, foundations and associations working collaboratively to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.

Join MDAC

www.mdac.us

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