



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

MDAC Submits Formal Comments to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Proposed Rule Change Impacts Covered Dental Care in Medicare

On July 7, 2022, CMS issued the proposed 2023 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS), which would significantly expand access to behavioral health services, Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), cancer screening, and dental care. With the 2023 PFS, CMS is proposing payment for dental services that are integral to covered medical services, such as dental examination and treatment preceding an organ transplant. In addition, CMS sought public comments on other medical conditions where Medicare should pay for dental services, such as for cancer treatment or joint replacement surgeries. Public input aids updated processes on when additional dental services may be integral to the clinical success of other medical services.

In consultation with network oral health experts, MDAC responded to CMS' request for comments to the proposed physician payment rule ([MDAC Letter to CMS – Medically necessary Dental Care](#)). MDAC is grateful to its members, partners, and stakeholders who also submitted comments to CMS in support of this very important step in making meaningful "medically necessary coverage" a reality. This update will ensure more people who need dental care will be able to receive it in conjunction with their Medicare covered medical treatments.

New Study on Preventive Dental Care and Improved Health Outcomes Examines oral health care, health care outcomes, and population with diabetes



The recently issued August 2022 issue of *Frontiers in Dental Medicine*, featured an article on a new study by the New York State Department of Health

(<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fdmed.2022.952182/full>). This report highlights findings that associate preventive dental services can lead to improved health outcomes, specifically the relationship between oral health care, health care outcomes, and costs in diabetes care for the publicly-insured. Diabetes is a recognized risk factor for periodontitis and periodontitis has been associated with poor glycemic control in patients with diabetes mellitus.

This report expands on the researchers' previous study of the associations between dental care and healthcare outcomes as well as costs for care in NY State Medicaid recipients. The previous study, "Dental Services and Health Outcomes in the New York State Medicaid Program" was published in the *Journal of Dental Research* in August 2021 and featured in the [MDAC May 2021 newsletter](#). The previous study was the first comprehensive study to evaluate these associations in a publicly insured population. The findings from this milestone study were important to demonstrating the association between dental care and better health outcomes as well as quantifying the financial benefits of dental coverage for adults on Medicaid. One of the researchers in the study, Philip M. DiMura, Bureau of Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Office of Quality and Patient Safety, NYSDOH, testified in Annapolis last January during hearings for SB150, *Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults*, on the findings from the first study addressing the association between the utilization of preventive dental care with reduced emergency department and inpatient admission rates and inpatient admission costs.

Better Dental Benefits Could Help Detect Oral Cancer

MDAC contributes to Journal article co-authored by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health researchers



According to a new article co-authored by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health researchers, Medicaid enrollees experienced higher prevalence, incidences, and mortality from oral cancer and throat cancer compared with commercially insured adults. "Individuals with infrequent dental visits are often diagnosed with oral cancer at later stages," write the authors, which significantly reduces the average five-year survival rate. The article is based on a study that compared all cases (prevalence) and new cases (incidence) of oral and throat cancers among approximately 38,000 Medicaid enrollees and approximately 27,000 individuals with commercial

medical insurance. Researchers found that total cancer treatment costs were higher for those with commercial insurance, which researchers suggest "likely reflects, at least in part, higher reimbursement rates for commercial plans compared with Medicaid." Cases of oral and throat cancers were also lower among adults who had seen a dentist within the prior year. The authors observed that "individuals with infrequent dental visits are often diagnosed with oral cancer at later stages," which significantly reduces the five-year survival rate. Older white males who used tobacco or alcohol or had HIV/AIDS were more likely to be at risk for oral and throat cancers. According to the report, "because individuals enrolled in Medicaid must earn below certain income thresholds that are a percentage of the federal poverty level (Medicaid.gov), many Medicaid enrollees may experience other environmental and behavioral factors associated with lower socioeconomic status and increased health risks, such as tobacco use, alcohol use, and lack of access to nutritious foods." The full article appears in the journal, *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention* (open access): <https://aacrjournals.org/cebpa/article/31/9/1849/708747/Oral-Cancer-Prevalence-Mortality-and-Costs-in>.

In Maryland, about 600 new cases of oral cancer are expected each year.

<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/oralhealth/Documents/OralCancerEnglish.pdf> (English)
<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/oralhealth/Pages/oralcancer.aspx> (Spanish)

Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) Environmental Scan Chartbook

MDAC gathers data in MD to educate; assist in integration of oral care into primary care

Publications

Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net: Environmental Scan 2021–2022 Chartbook

The



The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) at Georgetown University is pleased to announce a new resource, [Networks for Oral Health Integration \(NOHI\) Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net: Environmental Scan 2021–2022 Chartbook](#).

The chartbook contains data about factors that could impact the integration of oral health care into primary care for pregnant women, infants, and children at high risk for oral disease. The data was collected across 11 states and Washington, DC, as part of the [Networks for Oral Health Integration \(NOHI\) Within the MCH Safety Net](#), an initiative funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau to improve oral health care for low-income children served by safety-net programs and providers. The chartbook presents data related to scope of practice for medical and dental providers, Medicaid billing and

payment, and policies and regulations. It also presents information about the NOHI projects and the environmental scan data collection tool.

A set of chartbooks with results of the environmental scan for each NOHI project complements the 12 state/jurisdiction chartbook:

[Midwest Network for Oral Health Integration \(MNOHI\): Environmental Scan 2021–2022 Chartbook](#)
Results from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio

[Rocky Mountain Network of Oral Health \(RoMoNOH\): Environmental Scan 2021–2022 Chartbook](#)
Results from Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming

[Transforming Oral Health for Families \(TOHF\): Environmental Scan 2021–2022 Chartbook](#)
Results from Maryland, New York, Virginia, and Washington, DC

The regional chartbooks may be a useful and convenient reference for state oral health programs, state partners, and other stakeholders. Maryland participated in the Transforming Oral Health for Families (TOHF) Environmental Scan. TOHF is one of three NOHI projects working to integrate preventive oral health services into the pediatric primary care setting to **increase access to oral health care for children 0-40 months** of

age, as well as for expectant mothers. To accomplish this goal, the TOHF Team works collaboratively with health centers to: (1) implement caries risk assessment and fluoride varnish; (2) create and strengthen referral pathways; (3) improve provider oral health knowledge; (4) provide anticipatory guidance to parents utilizing comprehensive, curated tools and resources; and (5) assist with EHR configuration to improve clinical workflows, documentation, and reporting. Participating health centers in Maryland include Community Clinic, Inc. (CCI), Greater Baden Medical Services, Total Health Care, and West Cecil Health Center.

CHCS Issue Brief: Advancing Oral Health Equity for Medicaid Populations Opportunities presented for state partnerships to reduce disparities and advance equity



Substantial oral health-related disparities exist across the United States based on race, ethnicity, geography, income, and insurance status. Medicaid has significant opportunities to eliminate systemic inequities in oral health access, reduce long-standing disparities, and advance oral health equity given its size and diversity of enrollees. There is limited information, however, on state efforts to improve oral health equity among Medicaid-enrolled populations.

This September 2022 issue brief from the Center for Health Care Strategies describes common barriers for addressing oral health equity for Medicaid populations and outlines recommendations to improve oral health access and quality within four key areas: (1) coverage and access; (2) workforce capacity

building; (3) partnerships; and (4) payment. The brief, produced with support from the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, highlights opportunities for Medicaid to partner with community-based organizations and Medicaid enrollees to reduce oral health disparities and advance oral health equity.

Article: https://www.chcs.org/media/Advancing-Oral-Health-Equity-for-Medicaid-Populations_091322.pdf

Getting Back on Track with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination HPV vaccination is cancer prevention.



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

[Getting Back on Track with Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Vaccination: Protect Preteens against HPV-Associated Cancers](#)



As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that we increase the uptake of HPV vaccination among preteens. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a significant drop in childhood and adolescent vaccinations, including vaccinations for the prevention of HPV infection that can lead to six types of cancers.¹ The HPV vaccine is recommended for preteen boys and girls because it provides protection before exposure to the virus and produces a more robust immune response during the preteen years.² Despite its effectiveness, HPV vaccination rates remain below other vaccines that are recommended for adolescents. The most recent data for Maryland showed uptake of

tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine was 90.2% and the meningococcal vaccine was 94%, while HPV vaccination rates remain significantly behind these vaccines, with initiation at 83.1% and those with an up-to-date status at 66.8%.³ This gap in coverage represents missed opportunities to vaccinate preteens with the HPV vaccine at the same time as other routinely recommended vaccines. Patients who receive a strong provider recommendation are more likely to receive the HPV vaccine.^{4,5}

[Continue to read the article about HPV vaccination](#)

HRSA Notification: NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program

The application period for the National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program is now open through December 1, 2022, 7:30 p.m. ET. The program provides loan repayment awards to students in their last year of school pursuing a degree in allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, physician assistant studies, nursing, or dentistry. In exchange for loan repayment, individuals agree to provide primary health services in Health Professional Shortage Areas of greatest need. For more information, including eligibility requirements and how to apply, [view the FY 2023 Application and Program Guidance](#).

Position Announcement: PT Dentist in Residence

The Maryland Department of Juvenile Services - Cheltenham Youth Detention Center (CYDC) is seeking a PT Dentist in Residence to provide and oversee comprehensive dental services to youth at the Center. The individual will function as part of a health team providing interdisciplinary care to detained youth, to supervise dental support staff at the facility, and to support the DJS Medical Director in performing continuous quality improvement practices and developing policies and procedures related to dental services in DJS facilities. [Learn more or apply.](#)

"In the United States, people are more likely to have poor oral health if they are low-income, uninsured, and/or members of racial/ethnic minority, immigrant, or rural populations who have suboptimal access to quality oral health care. As a result, poor oral health serves as the national symbol of social inequality."

Northridge, M. E., Kumar, A., & Kaur, R. (2020). Disparities in Access to Oral Health Care. Annual review of public health, 41, 513–535. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-040119-094318>

NEWS & RESOURCES

Access to Care

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

Cancer

[Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#)

[Dentists have a place on cancer teams](#)

COVID-19

[Dental Service and Resource Needs during COVID-19 among Underserved Populations](#)

[COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on US Childhood Caries and Potential Mitigation](#)

Diabetes

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

Disease Prevention

[Making the Case for Dental Coverage for Adults in All State Medicaid Programs](#)

Health Equity

MD ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



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

According to Maryland Medicaid, from January 1, 2022 through September 13, 2022:

- **6,000** claims were submitted
- **3,594** unique members filed valid claims
- **200** members met the annual \$800 cap
- **503** unique providers submitted claims
- **\$945,90.2** paid

From January 1, 2021 through December 28, 2021

- **9,103** claims were submitted
- **4,502** unique members filed valid claims
- **371** members met annual \$800 cap
- **594** unique providers submitted claims
- **\$1,411,713.96** paid

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

- **7,942** claims were submitted
- **4,151** unique members filed valid claims

[Racism linked to high dental anxiety in U.S. Black women](#)

[The Connection Between 100 Million Mouths and Oral Health Equity](#)

[The Glaring Scope of Racial Disparities in Oral Health](#)

[Why We Created the Oral Health Equity in America Survey — and What We Found](#)

[Oral Health Care Access, Inequity, and Inequality](#)

[A Successful Dental Care Referral Program for Low-Income Pregnant Women in New York](#)

Maternal and Child Health

[HHS Announces Over \\$20 Million in Awards to Implement Biden-Harris Administration Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis: Reduce Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health](#)

[Acculturation and dental sealant use among US children](#)

[Interventions with pregnant women, new mothers and other primary caregivers for preventing early childhood caries](#)

[Preventing Early Childhood Caries through Oral Health Promotion and a Basic Package for Oral Care: A Pragmatic Trial](#)

[Attitude of Midwives towards Fluoride Recommendations and Oral Prevention in Infants and Young Children](#)

[Screening and Interventions to Prevent Dental Caries in Children Younger Than Age Five Years: A Systematic Review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force \[Internet\]](#)

[Oral Health Coaches at Well-Baby Clinics to Promote Oral Health in Preschool Children From the First Erupted Tooth: Protocol for a Multisite, Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

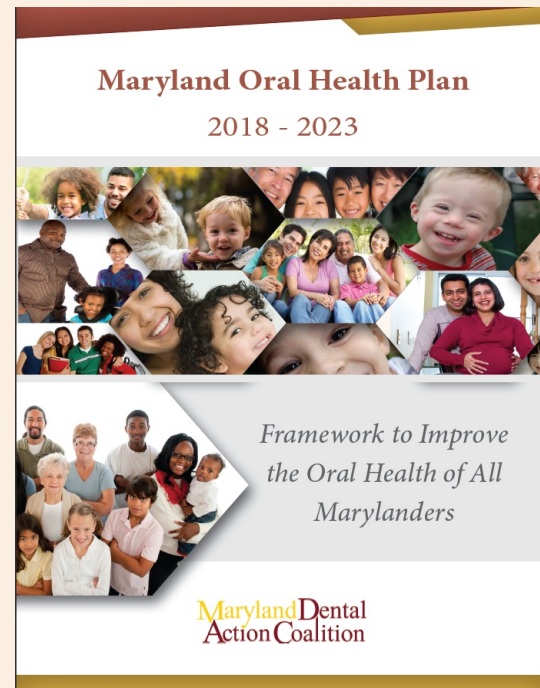
[Effects of an Ozonated Water Irrigator on the Plaque Index and Bleeding Index of Pregnant Women](#)

[Preventive Care Utilization among](#)

- 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 **\$5,004,365** in dental services for thousands of Maryland adults.

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS



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.

Work Force

[Are State-Level Policies Supporting Community Health Worker Employment? The Jury Is Still Out](#)

[Risks And Benefits To Community Health Worker Certification](#)

[Community Health Workers in the United States: Time to Expand a Critical Workforce](#)

[Dental hygienists' use of motivational interviewing and perceptions of effectiveness in changing patient behaviors](#)

Teledentistry

[Rural versus Urban Women 12 Months Prior to Pregnancy](#)

[Dental Quality Alliance \(DQA\) calls for review of its interim report](#)

Medical/Dental Integration

[Medical-dental integration needs to start in school](#)

[Cross-Sectional Analysis of Oral Healthcare vs. General Healthcare Utilization in Five Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)

[Dental Visits during Pregnancy: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System Analysis 2012-2015](#)

[Early Childhood Referrals by HealthySteps and Community Health Workers](#)

[Oral community health worker-led interventions in households with average levels of psychosocial factors](#)

[Consensus Statement on Future Directions for the Behavioral and Social Sciences in Oral Health](#)

Medicaid

[Advancing Oral Health Equity for Medicaid Populations](#)

[Association Between Medicaid Dental Payment Policies and Children's Dental Visits, Oral Health, and School Absences](#)

[Dentists Who Participate in Medicaid: Who They Are, Where They Locate, How They Practice](#)

[Assessment of Dentist Participation in Public Insurance Programs for Children in the US](#)

[Hourly Wages and Turnover of Community Health Workers According to US State Certification Policy and Medicaid Reimbursement, 2010–2021](#)

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

Oral Health Data

[Americans Are Still Not Getting the Dental Care They Need](#)

[Assessing Risks of Early Childhood Caries in Primary Care Practice Using Electronic Health Records and Neighborhood Data](#)

[Apps for Promoting Children's Oral Health: Systematic Search in App Stores and Quality Evaluation](#)

[Artificial Intelligence Techniques: Analysis, Application, and Outcome in Dentistry-A Systematic Review](#)

EVENTS

[Virginia Health Catalyst Annual Summit October 7, 2022, Richmond, VA](#)

[Oral Health Literacy Review October 11, 2022 at 3:00–4:00 p.m. ET](#)

[Center for Health Care Strategies Involving Community Partners in Data and Policy Initiatives to Advance Health Equity October 11, 2022, 12:00 – 1:30 pm ET](#)

[2022 Conference on Health Literacy and Health Equity Thursday, October 13 - 14 th at 10:00 AM](#)

[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](#)

[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](#)

[SAVE THE DATE 13th Annual Ava Roberts Advanced Pediatric Dentistry Seminar Friday, December 2, 2022, Ten Oaks Meeting Venue Clarksville, Maryland](#)

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

WEBINARS

[Dental Workforce Shortages: Data to Navigate Today's Labor Market Oct 3, 2022 12:00 PM in Central Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

[Adult Use of Emergency Departments for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions: Spotlight on Florida](#)

[The Oral Health in America Report: A Public Health Research Perspective](#)

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

Oral Health Policy

[The Role of Law and Policy in Increasing the Use of the Oral Health Care System and Services](#)

[Sociodemographic Changes and Oral Health Inequities: Dental Workforce Considerations](#)

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

[Oral Health Policy Equity Tool](#)

Oral and Overall Health

['Your mouth becomes a minefield': the Americans who can't afford the dentist](#)

[OLDER AMERICANS' ORAL CARE REGRETS, BARRIERS & IMPACT](#)

Fluoridation

[Fluoride toothpastes of different concentrations for preventing dental caries](#)

[Are the Dental Guidelines for Early Dental Visits and Fluoridation Measures Supported by Pediatricians, and What Are Their Caries Prevention Efforts?](#)

[Incorporation of Fluoride into Human Teeth after Immersion in Fluoride-Containing Solutions](#)

[Variation in prices for an evidence-based pediatric preventive service](#)

[1 fluoride method does not fit all for elderly patients](#)

[Involving Community Partners in Data and Policy Initiatives to Advance Health Equity, presented by Center for Health Care Strategies. Tuesday, Oct. 11 \(12-1:30 p.m. ET\)](#)

[Unlocking Access to Oral Health An event hosted by The Hill and sponsored by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#)

[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 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:

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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