

## MDH PROPOSES REGULATIONS FOR ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM Public comment period now open

On January 4, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) published proposed regulations for the Medicaid adult dental waiver program, bringing it one step closer to implementation. The proposed regulations outline the parameters of the program including:

- **Who is eligible:** All adults, between the ages of 21 and 64, who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.
- **What services will be provided:** Limited and comprehensive oral examinations, X-rays, prophylaxis, amalgam and resin restorations, and extractions (see proposed regulations for details).
- **Dollar amount of services:** Services will be capped at \$800 annually.

The proposed regulations are open for public comment for 30 days. [Click here](#) to read the proposed regulations and find out more about how to submit comments. Once the Department reviews public comments and receives federal approval for the program, the final regulations will be published. We are excited to begin this program which will reach about 38,000 adults across Maryland who would otherwise have no dental coverage.

## CARDIN SEEKS TO EXPAND MEDICARE TO INCLUDE DENTAL BENEFITS Introduced legislation to add dental benefit under Medicare Part B

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), a member of the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee, has introduced legislation (S. 22) that creates a dental benefit under Medicare Part B. Currently, Medicare does not pay for routine oral health care like checkups, cleanings and X-rays, restorative procedures, or dentures. Such care could help lower incidents of tooth loss and gum disease in older Americans. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly one in five adults over the age of 65 have lost all of their teeth. About two in three (68 percent) adults aged 65 years or older have gum disease.

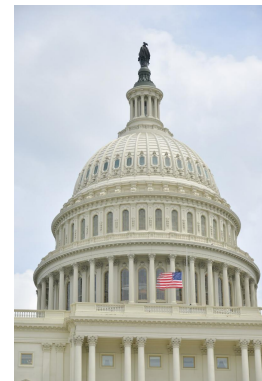
“Good oral health is essential to overall health, but quality oral care can be expensive – essentially out of reach – for too many people in Maryland and around the nation,” said Senator Cardin. “We’ve made incredible progress expanding dental coverage to children, now we must do the same for the older Americans across this country.”

An estimated 70 percent of seniors lack or have limited dental insurance, and fewer than half access dental care each year, according to the [Wisdom Tooth Project](#) of Oral Health America. The gap in coverage leads to high out-of-pocket costs for those who do access dental care.

The text of the Cardin legislation (S. 22) can be found [here](#). The bill would repeal the statutory exclusion on Medicare coverage of dental care and dentures in Section 1862(a)(12) of the Social Security Act. The legislation expands Part B benefits to cover dental and oral health services, including routine cleanings and exams, fillings and crowns, major services such as root canals and extractions, emergency dental care, and other necessary services.

In September of last year, Senator Cardin led his colleagues in a [bipartisan letter to the Department of Health and Human Services](#) urging Secretary Azar to use existing authorities to improve Medicare coverage for adult oral health to improve oral health and overall wellness as well as potentially reduce costs to the Medicare program. Cardin was also responsible for guaranteeing pediatric coverage for dental care through both the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The Cardin dental health bill has [earned endorsements](#) from Families USA, Justice in Aging, Center for Medicare Advocacy, and Oral Health America. MDAC strongly supports a Medicare dental benefit.



## **ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH ACT SIGNED INTO LAW**

### **Bill reauthorizes oral health promotion and disease prevention programs through 2022**

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[The Action for Dental Health Act](#), a bill that reauthorizes oral health promotion and disease prevention programs, was signed into law on December 11, 2018.

The legislation amends the Public Health Service Act to provide \$32 million in funding for oral health and disease prevention programs each fiscal year through 2022. It also expands the eligibility of the types of organizations that can apply for Human Health and Services (HHS) grants to establish outreach programs to help those in underserved communities access dental care and establish a dental home.

Beth Truett, president and CEO of Oral Health America, a major proponent of the bill, said, "This legislation is encouraging and signals oral health is a priority of Congress. Increasing oral health education and preventive oral health programs will be key to improving early diagnosis, intervention and prevention programs for our communities."

## **POLICY BRIEF ON ORAL HEALTH IN RURAL AREAS RELEASED**

### **Outlines policy recommendations to remove barriers to care in rural areas**

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The National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services recently released [Improving Oral Health Care Services in Rural America](#), a policy brief that outlines the barriers to oral health care access faced by many in rural areas.

Issues such as lack of providers willing to work in rural areas, lack of transportation, the capital needed to start a rural practice, specialization in dental care, and the large number of dentists predicted to retire in the near future impact the oral health of rural residents.

The brief provides an overview of federal efforts to remove barriers to care and offers recommendations to improve the oral health status of rural Americans.

## **SURGEON GENERAL TO RELEASE REPORT ON ORAL HEALTH IN 2020**

### **CDC and NIDCR seeking stakeholder input**

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute on Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) are seeking input to guide the development of the new Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health, to be issued in 2020. This is your opportunity to submit your perspectives on oral health as a part of overall health, issues that affect oral health, and the actions needed to improve the oral health of the nation.

Written comments and supplemental materials received are a part of the public record and are subject to public disclosure. All comments on the upcoming Surgeon General's report must be received by January 25, 2019. Comments may be submitted via e-mail at [NIDCR-SGROH@nidcr.nih.gov](mailto:NIDCR-SGROH@nidcr.nih.gov), or by mail to Ms. Michelle Pitt, NIH/NIDCR, 31 Center Drive, Room 5B55, Bethesda, MD 20892.

## **HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030 PROPOSES NATIONAL HEALTH OBJECTIVES**

### **U.S. Department of Health seeks public comments by January 17**

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The U.S. Department of Health is seeking written comments on the proposed objectives for Healthy People 2030, a set of national health targets focused on critical public health priorities, health promotion and disease prevention. The objectives will be used to guide efforts to improve the health of all Americans.

[Click here](#) to review and comment on the proposed Healthy People 2020 objectives or propose additional objectives for consideration.

All MDAC members, partners, and oral health stakeholders are encouraged to comment on the need to include oral health as a national priority to improve overall health. The public comment period is open through January 17, 2019.

## **SURGEON GENERAL RELEASES ADVISORY ON E-CIGARETTE EPIDEMIC**

## E-cigarette use among youth skyrocketing; up more than 75% between 2017 and 2018

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On December 18, 2018, U.S. Surgeon General Vice Adm. Jerome M. Adams issued an advisory stressing the importance of protecting children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and associated health risks by immediately addressing the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use.

E-cigarette use among youth has skyrocketed in the past year at a rate of epidemic proportions. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration's National Youth Tobacco Survey, the percentage of high school-age children reporting past 30-day use of e-cigarettes rose by more than 75 percent between 2017 and 2018. Use among middle school-age children also increased nearly 50 percent.

Data from National Institutes of Health's Monitoring the Future survey also shows that America's teens reported a dramatic increase in their use of e-cigarettes in just a single year, with 37.3 percent of 12th graders reporting use in the past 12 months, compared to 27.8 percent in 2017.

"We need to protect our kids from all tobacco products, including all shapes and sizes of e-cigarettes," said Adams. "Everyone can play an important role in protecting our nation's young people from the risks of e-cigarettes."

The surge in e-cigarette use among our nation's youth has been fueled by newer cartridge-based devices that have become increasingly popular. Many of these e-cigarettes look like a USB flash drive, making them easy to conceal. One of the most commonly sold versions is JUUL, which now has more than a 70 percent share of the cartridge-based e-cigarette market in the United States. A typical JUUL cartridge, or "pod," contains about as much nicotine as a pack of 20 regular cigarettes.



"In the data sets we use, we have never seen use of any substance by America's young people rise as rapidly as e-cigarette use is rising," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "Combustible cigarettes remain the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, and providing an effective off-ramp for adults who want to quit using them is a public health priority. But we cannot allow e-cigarettes to become an on-ramp to nicotine addiction for younger Americans. HHS has been and will continue developing a comprehensive, balanced policy approach to this challenge."

As noted in the 2016 Surgeon General's report on E-cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults, e-cigarette use poses a significant – and avoidable – health risk to young people. Besides increasing the possibility of addiction and long-term harm to brain development and respiratory health, e-cigarette use may also lead to the use of regular cigarettes that can do even more damage to the body.

"We have evidence-based strategies to prevent tobacco use that can be applied to e-cigarettes," said Adams. "We must take action now to protect the health of our nation's young people."

For facts about the risk of e-cigarettes, and how to protect our youth, visit: [ecigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov](https://www.ecigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov).

## MD SELECTED FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION PROJECT OHRC Partnership for Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care

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The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) at Georgetown University announced that five states—Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, and Rhode Island—have been selected to participate in the Partnership for Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care project.

OHRC will work with state Title V maternal and child health agencies and local primary care settings to integrate the interprofessional oral health core clinical competencies into practice. Primary care health professionals will integrate oral health care into primary care by completing risk assessments and screenings, providing preventive interventions and oral health education, and conducting interprofessional collaborative activities. The populations of focus include pregnant women, infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Project settings include community health centers, a local public health department, and a university-based women's health clinic.

Information about the project is online at <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/cohsii/primary-care.php>.

## FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

### Brush and clean in between to build a healthy smile



National Children's Dental Health Month, sponsored by the American Dental Association, is held each February to raise awareness of the importance of good oral health. This year's slogan is "Brush and clean in between to build a healthy smile."

The most chronic childhood disease – and the most preventable – is dental caries. To help clinicians, teachers, and parents promote good oral health and help children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums, the ADA has developed [free online resources](#), including posters, activity sheets, booklets, videos and more.

The ADA's 2019 National Children's Dental Health Month posters are 12" x 18", with English on the front and Spanish on the back. Download posters and flyers [here](#), or [click here](#) to order. For orders larger than 200 posters, please call Sharee Clough, Manager, Preventive Health Activities (CAAP) at (312) 440-2775.

## TEACH KIDS ABOUT ORAL HEALTH CARE, DENTAL VISITS, TEETH

### Use MDAC's recommended oral health book list

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition, in partnership with the University of Maryland Health Sciences and Human Services Library, developed a list of oral health books for children. These are great resources to use in planning oral health literacy and education events and outreach during National Children's Dental Health Month.

The list includes books on oral health care, visiting the dentist, and general information about teeth. These books are a wonderful way to teach children about the importance of good oral health and help them develop good oral hygiene routines.

The book list and additional information about each book is available [here](#).



## MDAC ANNOUNCES 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Represents broad swath of oral health stakeholders in Maryland

MDAC is pleased to announce its newly elected board of directors:

- Chair: Donna Behrens, RN, MPH, BSN, School Health Care Consultant
- Vice-Chair: Brooks Woodward, DDS, Chase-Brexton
- Secretary: Amy Kleine, MPH, Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- Treasurer: Cheryl Bruce, RDH, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Immediate Past Chair and Policy Committee Chair: Salliann Alborn, Maryland Community Health System (MCHS)
- Literacy and Education Committee Co-Chair: Alice Horowitz, Ph.D., University of Maryland School of Public Health
- Literacy and Education Committee Co-Chair: John Welby, Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health
- At-Large Representative: Celeste Camerino, DDS, Charles County Health Department
- At-Large Representative: Tamara Dulan, DDS, Maryland Dental Society
- At-Large Representative: Niles Kalyanaraman, MD, Health Care for the Homeless
- At-Large Representative: Lucciola Lambruschini, DDS, MBA, Spanish Catholic Center
- At-Large Representative: Donald Reuther, MBA, PMP, Baltimore Medical System
- At-Large Representative: Diane Romaine, DMD, Dr. Diane Romaine and Associates Dental Health Center
- At-Large Representative: Joy Void-Holmes, DHSc, BSDH, RDH, Fortis College
- At-Large Representative: Catie Wampole, Mountain Alliance Network/AHEC West
- Community Representative: Dean Shifflett, DentaQuest
- Student Representative - Olivia Straub
- Ex-Officio: Debony Hughes, DDS, Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health
- Ex-Officio: Mary Backley, MDAC

MDAC thanks 2018 board member Eric Biagioli for his leadership and commitment to improving the oral

health of all Marylanders. MDAC very much appreciates your hard work and dedicated service!

## **MDAC SEEKS PART-TIME CONSULTANT**

### **Will lead development and implementation of Medicaid adult dental collaborative**

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) is seeking a part-time consultant to lead the development, implementation, and management of a MDAC Medicaid adult dental collaborative.

The collaborative will monitor and support the Medicaid adult dental pilot program. This is a critical position that will involve the development of the goals and objectives; research and recruitment of participants; and implementation and launch of the collaborative.

The ideal candidate will have a strong public health background, sound knowledge of the issues, and deep connections to the oral health community. For further information or to apply, please contact MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley at [mbackley@mdac.us](mailto:mbackley@mdac.us).

## **PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

### **Dental professionals needed for January 24 dental clinic in Harford County**



The Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA) and United Way are seeking dental professionals to volunteer their services at the Harford County Project Homeless Connect dental clinic. The dental clinic, similar to Mission of Mercy dental clinics held elsewhere in the state, will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at the APGFCU Arena at Harford Community College in Bel Air, MD.

One of the most challenging things about being homeless is access to the services needed to move forward. Project Homeless Connect works to

eliminate this barrier by providing families and individuals facing homelessness medical and dental exams and screening, haircuts, legal advice, identification, healthy food and more – all in one place at one time.

For further information or to volunteer, [click here](#).

**"Every tooth in a man's head is more valuable than diamonds."**

*-Miguel de Cervantes*

### **NEWS**

[Trump Administration Rolls Back Obama-Era Rules for School Lunches](#)

[Sugar-Sweetened Beverages are Harmful to Health and May Be Addictive, Researchers Suggest](#)

### **ARTICLES**

[Consequences of Community Water Fluoridation Cessation for Medicaid-Eligible Children and Adolescents in Juneau, Alaska](#)

[New Faces of the Complex Care Workforce: Reflecting and Connecting with](#)

### **2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS**

## [Patients](#)

[For Rural Seniors, Improving Oral Health Care Could Mean Better Health](#)

[Addressing Social Determinants of Health via Medicaid Managed Care Contracts and Section 1115 Demonstrations](#)

[Nation's Progress on Children's Health Coverage Reverses Course](#)

[Preventive Dental Care Associated with Fewer ED, Hospital Visits](#)

[Oral Carcinoma Associated with Chronic Use of Electronic Cigarettes](#)

[Connecting Physical and Oral Health Care in Louisiana](#)

[Creating a More Equitable Oral Health System](#)

[Addressing Tobacco in Dental Settings: A Resource for Dental Professionals](#)

[It's Never Too Early to Quit Smoking](#)

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## EVENTS

[OSAP Dental Infection Control Boot Camp™ 2019, January 23-25, 2019](#)

[American Institute for Dental Public Health Annual Colloquium, January 24-25, 2019](#)

[Families USA Health Action Conference 2019, January 24-26, 2019](#)

[CMS Quality Conference: Innovating for Value and Results, January 29-31, 2019](#)

[APHA Public Health Under Siege: Improving Policy in Turbulent Times, February 6, 2019](#)

[20th Annual National Quality Forum Conference, March 24-26, 2019](#)

[Society for Public Health Education Annual Conference, March 26-29, 2019](#)

[Open Forum for Quality Improvement and Innovation in Public Health, March 28-29, 2019](#)

[National Oral Health Conference, April 15-17, 2019](#)

[Santa Fe Group 2019 Salon: Comprehensive Health Without Oral Health: A Medicare Paradox, May 8-10, 2019](#)

## 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:

- All Maryland children have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through public (Medicaid/MCHP) or private insurance.
- All Maryland adults have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through Medicaid or private insurance.
- All Maryland residents have a dental home.
- Strengthen the oral health safety net provider system.
- Integrate the oral health care system within the medical health care system.

### Oral disease and injury prevention:

- Use data to advance optimal oral health for all Marylanders.
- Improve public awareness of oral disease and injury prevention.
- Promote community-based oral disease and injury prevention programs.

### Oral health literacy and education:

- Increase understanding of the relationship between oral health and overall health, and promote good oral health practices and access to oral health care.
- Improve collaboration between oral health and other health and human services providers so that patients understand how to navigate the oral health care system and establish a dental home.
- Educate medical professionals and students about the importance of the

## WEBINARS

[Introducing the Blueprint for Complex Care: Opportunities to Advance the Field, January 22, 2019](#)

[Filling the Gap in Oral Health for Older Adults: A Community Guide to Program Implementation, January 23, 2019](#)

[The Secretary's Advisory Committee for Healthy People 2030, January 30, 2019](#)

## VIDEOS

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part One \(Welcome and Opening Remarks\)](#)

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part Two \(Burden of Disease\)](#)

[Surgeon General's Listening Session on Oral Health, Part Three \(Theme-Specific Presentations\)](#)

oral/systemic connection and foster collaboration between medical and dental disciplines and communities.

[Download the plan now!](#)

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

## WEBCASTS

[Addressing Social Determinants of Health via Medicaid Managed Care Contracts and § 1115 Demonstrations](#)

[What is the Defining Line Between Policy and Advocacy?](#)

[ASTDD: Chronic Disease and Older Adult Oral Health](#)

[Using Community Health Workers and Volunteers to Reach Complex Needs Populations](#)

## PODCASTS

[Integrating Primary Care and Oral Health](#)

[Oral Health in the United States with Mary Otto](#)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

[Maintaining Your Sanity and Practice Viability as a Medicaid Provider: Embracing Program Integrity](#)

[Health and Wellness @ the Library: The Essentials of Providing Consumer Health Services](#)

[OHRC: School-Based Dental Sealant Programs](#)

## ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

### ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE

#### Medicaid

[Health Coverage Matters for Children: The Role of Medicaid in the Healthy Development of America's Children](#)

[Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance](#)

### ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[Resources for Families: How to Avoid Harmful Tobacco Products](#)

[What Every Mom Ought to Know About Fluoride](#)

[Silver Diamine Fluoride \(SDF\) Application:](#)

[Program \(CHIP\) Scorecard](#)

[Medicaid Provider Reference Guide](#)

[State Strategies to Incorporate Oral Health into Medicaid Payment and Delivery Models for People with Chronic Medical Conditions](#)

## Medicare

[An Oral Health Benefit in Medicare Part B: It's Time to Include Oral Health in Health Care](#)

[America's Seniors Deserve Dental Coverage in Medicare: Martha's Story](#)

[Oral Health America Medicare Dental Toolkit](#)

## Policy

[OH2020: Improving Systems to Ensure Oral Health for All](#)

[Four Ways Our Health Care Is at Risk in the Supreme Court Nomination Fight](#)

[Trump Administration 'Public Charge' Rule Threatens Health Care for Immigrant Families, Including U.S. Citizen Children](#)

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## RURAL HEALTH

[For Rural Seniors, Improving Oral Health Care Could Mean Better Health](#)

[The Rural Primary Care Practice Guide to Creating Interprofessional Oral Health Networks](#)

[NRHA Policy Brief: Improving Rural Oral Healthcare Access](#)

[Maryland Rural Health Plan](#)

[CMS Rural Health Strategy](#)

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[Evidence-Based Recommendations](#)

[E-Cigarettes, Research and Your Health: What Do We Know About E-Cigarettes?](#)

[Quick Facts on the Risks of E-Cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults](#)

[Diabetes and Oral Health](#)

[AAP: HPV Champion Toolkit](#)

[Oropharyngeal Cancer \(OPC\) and HPV Prevention in Children](#)

[Answering Questions About HPV Vaccine: A Guide for Dental Professionals](#)

[ASTDD Best Practice Approach Report: Use of Fluoride in Schools](#)

[ASTDD Emergency Preparedness Manual](#)

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## ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND EDUCATION

[Steps for Toothbrushing at the Table: Growing Healthy Smiles in Early Care and Education Programs](#)

[Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: Practice Guidance for Maryland's Prenatal and Dental Providers](#)

[Oral Health During Pregnancy: Oral Health's Unanswered Questions](#)

[Hallways to Health: Creating a School-Wide Culture of Wellness](#)

[CDC: Tips for Teachers](#)

[AAP: Protect Tiny Teeth Toolkit](#)

[Fluorosis Facts](#)

[Common Questions About Fluoride](#)

[ASTDD: Oral Health Educational Resources for Home Visitors and Families: Environmental Scan](#)

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## LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)



## CONTACT

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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

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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](#)

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[www.mdac.us](http://www.mdac.us)

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