Maryland Dental Action Coalition

MD SENATE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES SB 284 - BILL MOVES TO HOUSE
Bill Would Establish Pilot Program for Adult Dental Coverage in Medicaid

Monday night the board flashed green 46 times, and when the final votes were tallied, it was unanimous. The Maryland Senate, in a bipartisan show of support, passed **SB 284 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage for Adults – Pilot Program**, which would establish a pilot program for adult dental coverage in Medicaid. The bill, sponsored by Senators Middleton, Guzzone, Astle, Benson, Feldman, Hershey, Jennings, Mathias, Reilly, and Rosapepe, is now headed to the House.

The pilot, designed to demonstrate MDAC's assertion that adding an adult dental benefit to Medicaid is a good investment in health outcomes and the fiscal health of Medicaid, is a huge victory that brings us one step closer to adult dental coverage in Medicaid.

MDAC could not have made such incredible inroads without the help and support of its members, partners, and stakeholders. Your support, including written and oral testimonies, phone calls, e-mails and letters spoke to both the great need for a Medicaid adult dental benefit and the groundswell of support for the bill. Thank you!

But our work is far from done. Over the next three weeks, the House Health and Government Operations Committee will listen to testimony and conduct hearings on SB 284. This important pilot program will demonstrate that improved access to dental care improves health outcomes, lowers chronic disease costs, and diverts emergency room visits. Once again, MDAC asks you to call or e-mail your state representatives to express your support for this vital bill and to ask them to vote YES on SB 284.

CHARLES COUNTY AT FOREFRONT OF HYPERTENSION INITIATIVE
Cross-Professional Collaboration Results in Thousands of Screenings

Charles County is one of 12 Maryland counties participating in a statewide Maryland Department of Health initiative to provide hypertension screenings for adults during routine dental visits and, if needed, refer them to a primary care physician for appropriate medical care.

Hypertension, one of the most common and dangerous medical conditions, is a leading cause of heart disease and stroke. Hypertension affects 1 out of 3 adults in Maryland. Of the 1.5 million hypertensive Marylanders, half are poorly controlled, and approximately 20% more adults are unaware that they even have high blood pressure.

Every year, approximately 27 million Americans visit their dentist but do not see their physicians, which makes the dentist's office an opportune place to identify patients with hypertension who might otherwise remain undiagnosed.

Health Program Coordinator Angela Deal and Health Services Specialist Laura Thayer of the Charles County Department of Health have been at the forefront of initiating and running the cross-professional program in the county. Five key sites were selected for the program launch: the Charles County Department of Health's Dental Clinic, two non-profit dentalcare providers, and two private dental practices. The Charles County Health Department provided each location with blood pressure monitors, educational materials, and training for

hygienists and dental assistants. Four out of the five participating dental practices screen every patient, while one screens most patients.

When patients visit a participating dental provider, the provider fills in a form that captures the patient's vital signs, medical history, and some demographic information, which enables the provider to make community referrals for smoking cessation, diabetes, and self-care management. The provider may also make a care plan of self-management strategies for the patient, which may be oral health-related (e.g. brush twice a day, floss daily, etc.) and/or chronic condition-related (e.g. increase physical activity, monitor blood pressure at home, take medications as directed). The forms are in triplicate – one copy for the dentist, one for the primary care physician, and one for the health department.

Request for Medical Consult Form Data - Quarter 2

Community Program Referrals	CCDOH Dental - Total Referral Forms - 374	Sites 2 & 3 - Total Referral Forms - 495	Site 4 - Total Referral Forms - 368	Site 5 - Total Referral Forms - 108
Living Well (CDSMP)	154	87	0	0
Cessation Class	116	25	0	0
Maryland Quit Line	118	27	0	0
Healthier Hearts Class	6	83	0	0
Diabetes Education	7	7	0	1

Self-Management Care Plan	CCDOH Dental	Sites 2 & 3	Site 4	Site 5
Monitor blood pressure at home	0	90	1	8
Improve on medication adherence	0	89	0	2
Increase physical activity	0	95	48	2
Decrease sodium	0	101	68	2
Eat a healthy diet	0	104	64	4
Visit dentist every 6 months	339	144	321	21
Brush at least 2x/day	339	153	324	24
Floss daily	340	151	322	24
Drink more tap water	340	134	61	1
Use fluoride toothpaste	399	145	102	18

The dental hygienist or dental assistant takes the patient's blood pressure. If the blood pressure reading is high, the dentist refers the patient to a primary care physician or specialist. Each dental office has guidelines on performing dental procedures on hypertensive patients, and depending on the blood pressure reading, the dentist may decline to work on the patient until the patient has seen a primary care physician and returned a signed form indicating that is safe to proceed with dental treatment

Charles County Hypertension Screening Program: Synopsis of Blood Pressure Stages (Old Guidelines) vs. Number of Medical Consultations/Community Program Referrals Quarter 1 (7/1/17-10/31/17)

Practice	# of Patients Seen	# of Clinical Visits (duplicated)	Number of Referral Forms	# of Patients Receiving Screening	# of Medical Consults (any reason)
CCDOH	388	539	388	539	35
Sites 2 & 3	483	766	569	568	6
Site 4	487	681	193	193	14
Site 5	221	221	0	58	1

Practice	Normal	Pre-Hypertension	High - Stage 1	High - Stage 2	Crisis	Blank
CCDOH	163	116	221	33	6	0
Sites 2 & 3	157	199	134	53	19	6
Site 4	58	75	49	10	1	0
Site 5	No date	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

Initially, getting dental providers on board was a challenge, since many had never worked with the health

department, never had to report data, and had not worked collaboratively with medical professionals. Another challenge was recording data (the participating dental offices do not have the same electronic records management systems as the primary care providers) and getting the medical consultation forms back. Thayer visits each site weekly to collect the forms, address any issues, and answer questions. Deal and Thayer record, analyze and send the data to the dental providers. They also follow up with patients who have been referred to a primary care physician to help ensure that they get the medical care they need.

The program began on July 1, 2017, and to date, more than 3,744 patients have been screened and/or referred – an important step to ensuring the overall health of the patient.

When asked what advice they had for others implementing the program, Deal said, "Implementing the program takes time, so don't be frustrated if you do not see results in the beginning." Thayer added, "It's important to make sure that the form makes sense for the dental practice. If necessary, tailor the form for each provider so they will use it."

For further information about the hypertension screening program in Charles County, please contact Angela Deal at (301) 609-6885, or **angela.deal@maryland.gov.**

MDDH OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH RELEASES PREGNANCY GUIDE
Practical Guidance for Prenatal and Dental Providers
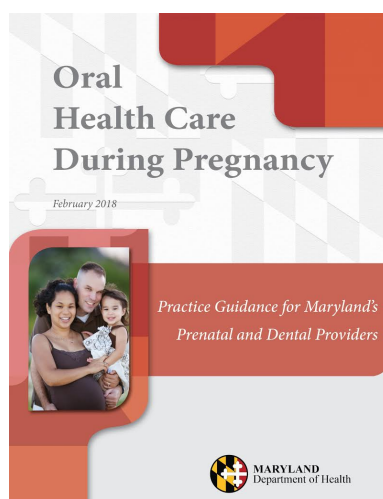
The Maryland Department of Health's Office of Oral Health has released *Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: Practice Guidance for Maryland's Prenatal and Dental Providers,* a guide for prenatal and dental providers to support quality oral health care delivery to pregnant women in Maryland.

The guide, developed by an Interprofessional steering committee representing several state organizations and health professions, includes up-to-date, evidence-based information and useful resources, including clinical images, a dental pharmacology chart, a dental referral form, and educational materials for pregnant women.

To order print copies of the guidance document and free educational materials, visit **www.OralHealth4BetterHealth.com** and complete the **printed materials request form**.

"Why would we cover every other benefit and not dental health? It's like telling people that we're going to provide health care coverage for every part of your body except your right arm."

Natalia Chalmers, D.D.S, Ph.D, Director of Analytics, DentaQuest Institute

NEWS

Bill Seeks Test Program to Provide Dental Coverage for Maryland Medicaid Recipients

How Dental Inequality Hurts Americans

Medicare Doesn't Equal Dental Care. That Can Be a Big Problem.

Trump's Hidden War on Medicaid: Work Requirements, Time Limits, and Drug Testing Could Significantly Shrink

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS

ARTICLES

Maryland Oral Health Plan
2018 - 2023

Framework to Improve the Oral Health of All Marylanders

Maryland Dental Action Coalition

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

Clinical Dental Practice

ADEA State Update: Maryland Focuses on Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits

Supporting Children's Oral Health Should Start Before Birth

How This Baltimore Bill Would Change Beverages With Kids' Meals

Prisons Failing in Dental Care for Inmates, Say Researchers

Our Dental Care System is Stuck and Here is What to Do About It

A Funding Crisis for Public Health and Safety: State-by-State Public Health Funding and Key Health Facts 2018

Health Care Spending in the United States and Other High-Income Countries

Study: Half of Latinos Experience Poor Oral Health

Opportunistic Oral Cancer Screening: A Management Strategy for Dental Practice

EVENTS

American Society on Aging Conference, March 26-29, 2018

Sixth Annual Public Health Research at Maryland Day, April 3, 2018

2018 National Oral Health Conference, April 16-19, 2018

Teach Me Dental: Comprehensive Health Series Part 2, April 28, 2018

NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference, May 8-11, 2018

2018 National School-Based Health Care Convention, June 24-27, 2018

2018 Healthy Aging Summit, July 16-17, 2018

Download the plan now!

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

MDAC Members' Meeting
April 23, 2018, 5:30 MP - 7:30 PM
Maryland State Dental Association
8901 Herrmann Drive
Columbia, MD 21045

WEBINARS

Using Data to Impact Oral Health Policy: What Policymakers Want to Know, March 22, 2017

North Dakota: An Example of an Oral Healthcare Program for Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities, April 26, 2018

Oral Hygiene and Self-Care in Older Adults with Dementia, May 3, 2018

Self-Reported Oral Health Data vs. Oral Screening Data: What's the Story?, May 17, 2018

WEBCASTS

ASTDD: Training Health Care Professionals to Focus on the Oral-Systemic Health of Older Adults

HRSA: Before You Say Ahhhh...Integrating Oral Health and Behavioral Health in Primary Care Settings

ASTDD Dental Hygienist Liaisons Webcast: Strategies to Increase the Impact of State Dental Hygienist Liaisons

AHEC West: Screening & Management of Prediabetes & Hypertension

ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE

Oral Health in America: Experiences of Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

ADA: Championing Oral Health in Schools

ADA Health Policy Institute: Oral Health Care State Facts

ASTDD: Improving Oral Health Access and Services for Older Adults

OHRC Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual

Evaluation of a Comprehensive Oral Health Services Program in School-Based Health Centers

Health Policy Institute: Emergency Department Visits for Dental Conditions – A Snapshot

Disparities in Untreated Caries Among Children and Adults in the U.S., 2011–2014

A Funding Crisis for Public Health and Safety: State-by-State Public Health Funding and Key Health Facts 2018

Medicaid

Financial Impact of Emergency Department Visits by Adults for Dental Conditions in Maryland

Hospital Visits for Dental Conditions in Maryland

Families USA: Why States Should Offer Extensive Oral Health Benefits to Adults Covered by Medicaid

Strengthening Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports in an Evolving Policy Environment: A Toolkit for States

CHCS: Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits: An Overview

Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Adults in Medicaid: Key Themes from a Policy Roundtable

Health Policy Institute: Dentist

ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

Oral Health Signs of Child Maltreatment

ACP Fact Sheet: Oral Health and You

ACP Fact Sheet: Oral Health and Diabetes

ACP Fact Sheet: Oral Health and Older Adults

ACP Fact Sheet: Oral Health and HPV

Maryland Department of Health HPV Toolkit

ASTDD: Silver Diamine Fluoride Fact Sheet

Stem the Tide: Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oral Health Data Portal

Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

Don't Be Scammed by a Drug Abuser

Treating Tobacco Use in Maryland: Tools for Helping Your Patients Quit

The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General

Drink Up! Fluoridated Water Helps Fight Decay

ASTTD: Chronic Disease and Medical/Dental Integration

ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND EDUCATION

2 Minutes With Your Dentist Can Save Your Life

Promoting Oral Health in Young Children: A Resource Guide

Oral Health Books for Children

[Participation in Medicaid or CHIP](#)

[Oral Health Innovation: Opportunity and Risk, Medicaid Waivers and the Keys to Good Oral Health](#)

[Families USA: How Medicaid Waivers Could Limit Access to Oral Health Care](#)

Medicare

[Families USA: America's Seniors Need Medicare Oral Health Coverage](#)

[Oral Health America Medicare Dental Toolkit](#)

[Families USA: Medicare Should Pay for Oral Health Care That Is Necessary to Manage Serious Illnesses](#)

[Dental Care And Medicare Beneficiaries: Access Gaps, Cost Burdens, And Policy Options](#)

National Policy

[Oral Health 2020 National Policy Landscape Resources](#)

[Oral Health 2020: Reframing Oral Health: A Communications Toolkit for Advancing Oral Health Reform](#)

[Oral Health 2020: Unlocking the Door to New Thinking: Frames for Advancing Oral Health Reform](#)

RURAL HEALTH

[MRHA Maryland Rural Health Plan](#)

[Compendium of Rural Oral Health Best Practices](#)

[Brush, Book and Bed Implementation Guide](#)

[School-Based Health Alliance School Oral Health Resource Library](#)

[Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids](#)

[Oral Health Care During Pregnancy](#)

[Healthy Mouths for You and Your Baby](#)

[Brush Up on Oral Health: Child Maltreatment](#)

[Brush Up on Oral Health: Water and Health](#)

[Understanding the Mouth and Body Connection: How Your Oral Health Affects Your General Health](#)

[Teaching Children to Think Mouth, Think Health](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

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

FOLLOW US