



March 2020

MEDICAID DENTAL COVERAGE EXTENDED FOR 60 DAYS POSTPARTUM **Hogan budget passes; one step closer to dental benefits for all Medicaid adults**

MDAC's efforts to expand dental coverage to all adults in the Medicaid program reached another important milestone on March 5 when Governor Hogan introduced a supplemental budget that included \$1 million in funding for dental coverage for postpartum women in Medicaid. The proposed budget was approved by the Maryland General Assembly on March 18.



Pregnant women are eligible to receive Medicaid health and dental coverage throughout their pregnancy. Although health coverage extends 60 days postpartum, dental coverage ends right after the Medicaid enrollee gives birth. Under the new initiative, women will have dental coverage for 60 days postpartum, just as they have health coverage.

MDAC and its legislative champions Delegate Mike McKay (R-Washington and Allegany Counties) and Senator Guy Guzzone (D-Howard County) have worked tirelessly to ensure that women have access to dental services after their pregnancy to give new moms the opportunity to address their oral health needs. Extended dental coverage will also give dentists the opportunity to talk with women about the importance of dental coverage for their children.

MDAC thanks all of its partners, including Governor Hogan, Delegate McKay, and Senator Guzzone, and the Maryland General Assembly for their support of extending postpartum coverage for dental services to more women.

[Read the letter](#) MDAC submitted to the Governor in support of extending dental coverage to postpartum women.

HB 749 MAKES DENTAL TEAM MORE EFFICIENT **Bill allows hygienists to prescribe limited number of medications**

The Maryland General Assembly enacted HB 749 – Health Occupations - Dental Hygienists - Authority to Prescribe and Administer Medication. The bill allows licensed dental hygienists to prescribe from a limited list of medications, including topical fluorides and ibuprofen. The bill will allow dental offices to utilize the education and training of dental hygienists, and thus dental offices will be more efficient. Increasing efficiency will improve consumer access and experience. MDAC supported the legislation in partnership with the Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association (MDHA) and the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA). The bill is awaiting the Governor's signature and is expected to go into effect October 1, 2020.

ORAL HEALTH COVERAGE NEEDED TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH **Families USA advocates for pregnancy-related Medicaid coverage**

Families USA has a new [fact sheet](#) on why congressional efforts to address America's maternal health crisis should make oral health coverage a guaranteed part of pregnancy-related Medicaid coverage.

While Congress is necessarily focused on other things right now, maternal health is a topic that has been getting a lot of attention recently and that will continue to come up—both as a stand alone topic as well as in the coronavirus response. Earlier this month, the Black Maternal Health Caucus introduced the Momnibus Act, adding to the growing list of legislation designed to keep pregnant women and new mothers healthy.

MDH ISSUES DIRECTIVES REGARDING COVID-19

Elective, non-urgent medical procedures, appointments cease

On Tuesday, March 23, 2020, the Maryland Department of Health released a list of directives and orders regarding various healthcare matters in response to the Governor's Executive Orders surrounding COVID-19. In section six of the order, the Maryland Department of Health addresses elective and non-urgent medical procedures for all health care practitioners. The statement reads:

"Pursuant to the Executive Order of March 16, 2020 relating to various health care matters and in accordance with the guidance issued by MDH and posted on its website at <http://coronavirus.maryland.gov>, all providers of health care licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article shall perform only medical procedures that are critically necessary for the maintenance of health for a patient. All elective and non-urgent medical procedures and appointments shall cease effective at 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2020 and shall not be performed for the duration of the catastrophic health emergency."

MD STATE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS ISSUES NEW CE POLICY

Will accept on-line continuing education credits for 2020 renewal cycle

In response to the coronavirus pandemic and the requirement of social distancing, the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners announced that it will accept on-line Continuing Education (C.E.) credits – including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) - for the Maryland 2020 dental licensing renewal cycle, effective immediately.

All on-line C.E. credits may be applied for this renewal cycle only. This one-time exemption applies only to the 2020 renewal cycle. The Board will revisit this issue as circumstances dictate in the future.

MSDA ISSUES GUIDANCE REGARDING COVID-19

Recommends dentists suspend all non-essential, non-urgent dental care

On Wednesday, March 25, MSDA issued the following advisory to its members:

"On Monday, March 23, 2020, the Maryland Department of Health released a list of directives and orders regarding various healthcare matters in response to the Governor's Executive Orders surrounding COVID-19. In section six of the order, the Maryland Department of Health addresses elective and non-urgent medical procedures for all health care practitioners. The statement reads:

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"In light of the rapidly growing developments regarding official responses to the coronavirus (COVID-19), The Maryland State Dental Association recommends all dental practices follow the mandate/orders of the Maryland Department of Health and postpone all non-emergency or non-urgent procedures through the duration of the "catastrophic health emergency." This recommendation reflects our continuing concern for the safety, health and well being of your patients, your staff and yourself. The fluid activities at the state and federal levels suggest the possibility that more stringent and mandated restrictions are possible. The MSDA recommends promptly making provisions for further disruptions to your practice in the near future.

"We will continue to closely monitor the situation, provide updates and statements as the situation evolves. Check our Facebook for updates."

Additional provider resources, including additional guidance and information on an extension for professional licensure renewal, can be found on the [MSDA website](#).

MDAC NEWSLETTER COMPILES INFO, RESOURCES ON CORONAVIRUS

Contains wealth of information, guidance, and resources

To help keep its members, partners, and stakeholders up-to-date with the latest information and resources regarding the coronavirus pandemic, MDAC has compiled an extensive list of resources for patients, providers, and oral health advocates.

The COVID-19 Resources section of this newsletter includes links to guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), CMS (Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services), ADA (American Dental

The news, articles, and webinars sections of the newsletter also contain important information you can use as we all work together to maintain and improve the oral health of Marylanders during this uncertain time,

OOH IMPLEMENTS OBESITY SCREENING AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Pilot program to refer children who have obesity to physicians, nutritionists



The Office of Oral Health recently began the implementation of the Oral-Health-Care-Based Childhood Obesity Screening and Prevention (OCOSP) Project. This Pilot Project, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is designed to engage dental providers in the screening and referral of children who suffer from obesity to physicians and nutrition professionals for evaluation and/or treatment.

Initial activities of this project consist of a training to dental providers on project goals and objectives, as well as protocols for BMI screening, communication of weight status with patients' families, referral to health

providers and patient follow up.

Training sessions are being conducted throughout March 2020. Contact Giselle Bonilla, MPH, CHEP at Giselle.Bonilla@Maryland.gov for more information.

DEADLINE FOR CHW CERTIFICATION SUSPENDED

Applications due 30 days after state of emergency terminated in MD

The deadline for experienced community health workers (CHWs) to submit an application for certification has been suspended until 30 days after the state of emergency has been terminated in Maryland.

Experienced community health workers with a minimum of 2,000 hours of paid or volunteer CHW experience and proficiency in Maryland's CHW core competencies may continue to submit certification applications based on experience until 30 days after the state of emergency has been terminated in Maryland. CHWs do not need to request an extension to submit a certification application based on experience while this deadline suspension is in effect.

Visit [Community Health Worker Certification](#) for further information, eligibility requirements, and application instructions. For information in Spanish, visit [CHW Certification Application in Spanish](#). CHWs seeking certification after the close of the application period will be required to complete an accredited training program.

For information about the accredited CHW training program or the process to become an accredited training program for CHW certification, see [Community Health Worker Certification Training Program Accreditation](#).

AHEC WEST ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ECHO SUMMER PROGRAM

ECHO 101: June 14-19; ECHO 201: June 22-26

High school students from Garrett, Allegany, Washington and surrounding counties in West Virginia and Pennsylvania who are weighing future career options can learn about the many and varied careers available in the healthcare field through ECHO: Exploring Careers in Health Occupations.



ECHO is a week-long residential program for high school students that allows them to live on campus at Frostburg State University while exploring a wide variety of career options available throughout western Maryland in health professions. Students gain hands-on experience in team building (think: white water rafting) while undergoing an action-packed week of health professions adventures.

Students will tour the top medical schools in Maryland and West Virginia. Visit health departments, hospitals, private physician practices, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Library of Medicine. Experience the life of a surgeon via a surgical simulator, and test their limits through a visit to a cadaver lab - all while learning about life in a college dorm as well as how to apply to college and manage their finances.

This year the application includes a brief video uploaded by the student addressing their interest in the ECHO program and why they are considering a healthcare career. Applications are being accepted through April 26.

"You can't be healthy without good oral health."

- C. Everett Koop, 13th U.S. Surgeon General (1982-1989)

NEWS

[ADA Calls Upon Dentists to Postpone Elective Procedures](#)

[ADA Releases Coronavirus Handout for Dentists Based on CDC Guidelines](#)

[We Shouldn't Wait for a Crisis like Coronavirus to Fund Public Health](#)

[Trump Lifts Restrictions on Telehealth Services for Seniors in Hopes of Limiting Coronavirus Spread](#)

[Senate Passes Coronavirus Legislative Package](#)

[Frequent Toothbrushing May Reduce Diabetes Risk](#)

[Dental Shock: Six Pulled Teeth And One Unexpected Bill](#)

[National Academies: NTP's Conclusion about Fluoride Is Not Backed by Science](#)

ARTICLES

[OCR Announces Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency](#)

[Teledentistry: Connecting Rural Communities to Dental Care](#)

[Improving Pregnancy-Related Oral Health Coverage Would Bolster Maternal Health, Reduce Health Care Costs](#)

[The Burden of Out-of-Pocket Expenditures for Dental Care on Medicare-Enrolled Elderly and Disabled](#)

[Reversible Decay: Oral Health is a Public Health Problem We Can Solve](#)

[Dental Care & Coverage After 65: Experiences & Perspectives](#)

[How Dental Professionals Can Honor](#)

MD ADULT DENTAL PILOT PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



The Maryland Adult Dental Pilot Program is off to a terrific start! According to Maryland Medicaid, from June 1, 2019 December 31, 2019:

- 7,759 claims were submitted
- 4,160 unique members filed valid claims
- 280 members met annual \$800 cap
- 546 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,303,003.82 spent year-to-date

Note: 2019 numbers have been adjusted to reflect claims received after the first of the year for services performed in 2019.

From January 1, 2020 - February 12, 2020:

- 1,021 claims were submitted
- 814 unique members filed valid claims
- 12 members met annual \$800 cap
- 281 unique providers submitted claims
- \$173,182.00 spent year-to-date

Due to the pandemic, updated data on the results of the Medicaid adult dental pilot program are not available at this time.

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS

[Fluoridation's 75th Anniversary](#)

[Adopting a Wellbeing Approach in Health Care: Benefits and Considerations](#)

[State Efforts to Integrate Care for Dually Eligible Beneficiaries: 2020 Update](#)

[The Role of Law and Health Policy in Achieving Healthy People's Disability and Health Goals Around Access to Care, Activities Promoting Health and Wellness, Independent Living and Participation, and Collecting Data in the United States](#)

[Study Shows Vaping's Effect on the Oral Microbiome Increases Risk of Infection](#)

[Brush Up on Oral Health Tip Sheet: Silver Diamine Fluoride](#)

WEBINARS

[COVID-19 Infection Control Protocols and Procedures \(Recorded\)](#)

[State Health Coverage Strategies for COVID-19, March 27, 2020](#)

[COVID-19 & Dentistry: Practice and Patient Safety During a Pandemic, March 27, 2020](#)

[Infection Control and Preventive Care During a National Health Care Crisis, April 1, 2020](#)

[Improving Children's Oral Health Using Fluoride Varnish in Non-Dental Settings, April 2, 2020](#)

[Teledentistry: Providing Alternative Care During a Public Health Crisis, April 6, 2020](#)

[Pathways to Improving Children's Oral Health Using Silver Diamine Fluoride, May 20, 2020](#)

EVENTS

In light of federal and state actions to contain the novel coronavirus, the events listed below may be postponed or cancelled. For the most up-to-date information, please check with the event sponsor.

[ADHA Annual Conference 2020, June 12-14, 2020](#)

[Special Care Dentistry Association Annual Meeting, August 7-9, 2020](#)

[National Conference on Health](#)

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 oral/systemic connection and foster

[Communication, Marketing & Media, August 10-12, 2020](#)

[Health Literacy in Action Conference, October 18-20, 2020](#)

PODCASTS

[The Doctor Is In - Episode Six: Vaping & Teen Health](#)

collaboration between medical and dental disciplines and communities.

DOWNLOAD THE PLAN

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

VIDEOS

[Hidden Pain: America's Oral Health Crisis](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCES

PATIENT RESOURCES

[CDC: What You Need to Know About Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[World Health Organization Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Advice for the Public](#)

[How Coronavirus Spreads](#)

[Coronavirus: How to Protect Yourself from COVID-19](#)

[Social Distancing: Places And Events To Avoid Because Of Coronavirus](#)

[Self-Quarantine? Isolation? Social Distancing? What They Mean And When To Do Them](#)

[What Are the Symptoms of COVID-19?](#)

[Steps to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 if You Are Sick](#)

[How to Prepare Your Household for Coronavirus](#)

[Emergency Preparedness Checklist](#)

[What Is a Dental Emergency?](#)

ORAL HEALTH POLICY

[National Council of State Legislatures: COVID-19 Resources for State Legislators and Staff](#)

[State Health Coverage Strategies for COVID-19](#)

PROVIDER RESOURCES

[Maryland Department of Health Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\) Outbreak](#)

[ADA: What Constitutes a Dental Emergency?](#)

[ADA Guidance: Infectious Diseases: 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)

[ADA Releases Coronavirus Handout for Dentists Based On CDC Guidelines](#)

[COVID-19 Coding and Billing Interim Guidance](#)

[How Do I Ethically Continue to See Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic?](#)

[CDC: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)

[CMS: FAQs on Catastrophic Plan Coverage and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[CMS: Adult Elective Surgery and Procedures Recommendations](#)

[CMS: Coverage and Payment Related to COVID-19 - Medicare](#)

[CMS: Current Emergencies](#)

[American Chemistry Council: EPA Approved COVID-19 Fighting Products](#)

[Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Provider Fact Sheet](#)

[NNOHA COVID-19 Resources](#)

[OSHA Guidance Summary: Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)

Medicaid

[How Should Medicaid Health Plans Respond to COVID-19?](#)

RURAL HEALTH

[Rural Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

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 new members:

- Katherine Perez Sandoval

Join us! To become a 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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