



June 2020

FUNDING PRESERVED FOR MEDICAID POSTPARTUM DENTAL COVERAGE

Coverage start date pushed back to January 1, 2021



State officials are considering a \$1.5 billion package of adjustments to balance the State's budget. Funding for postpartum dental coverage in Medicaid is preserved. The start date will be pushed back from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021.

Medicaid currently provides dental coverage for pregnant individuals, but the coverage does not extend to the postpartum period. "Thanks to Governor Hogan's commitment to close the gap between dental and health coverage, more women will have access to dental care. This coverage will give new moms an opportunity to obtain a dental home

for themselves and their newborns," said Delegate Mike McKay (District 1C – Allegany & Washington Counties). MDAC worked with Delegate McKay and Senator Guy Guzzone (District 13 - Howard County) on championing postpartum dental coverage.

The new postpartum dental program will provide Medicaid dental coverage for 60 days postpartum. Medicaid already has a similar structure for health benefits in the postpartum period. MDAC will provide updates on the implementation process, which will include the Maryland Department of Health applying for federal approval of the change.

HHS RELEASES COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING FOR DENTISTS

Dentists must meet qualifications, submit application

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the release of funds to support dentists and other Medicaid providers during the COVID-19 emergency. Providers must meet federal qualifications and [submit their applications](#) by July 20.

"The HHS funds will provide critical financial support to allow dentists to continue serving the Medicaid community," said Brooks Woodward, DDS, Dental Director at Chase Brexton Health Services and Chair of MDAC Board of Directors.

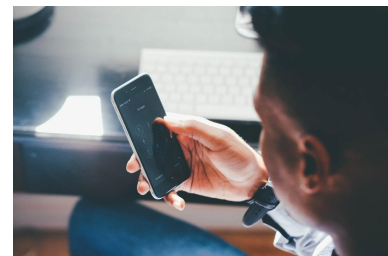
Last month, [MDAC joined with other advocacy organizations](#) to ask for the expeditious release of support funds Congress set aside for Medicaid providers as part of the CARES Act.

DENTAQUEST SURVEYS PATIENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS TELEDENTISTRY

Results indicate high level of satisfaction with teledental visits

Until recently, little was known about how patients would rate a teledental visit. Although dental providers have moved more slowly than their medical peers to embrace telehealth, the COVID-19 crisis and closure of dental offices for other than emergency care have demonstrated a more urgent reason to adopt these technologies for continuity of patient care.

Now, recent survey data indicates most patients want teledental-enabled care and may even prefer it. The DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement developed a survey, conducted this spring by Advantage Dental from Dentaquest, to determine patient attitudes toward teledentistry. Recently released data reveals that a clear majority of patients receiving a video-enabled oral health screening were pleased



with their experience. Key findings are:

- Nearly 9 in 10 patients (86%) said they were satisfied with their overall teledentistry experience
- 86% said they would use teledentistry again.
- 95% said they were “able to speak freely with the dentist and ask questions” when they used teledentistry.
- 93% reported being able “to easily understand what the dentist told me about my concern.”
- 86% said they would recommend teledentistry to another person.
- 69% reported that their concern was taken care of during the teledental visit.
- Nearly one-third (31%) reported they didn’t need in-office care following their teledentistry appointment.

[Read more](#) about the DentaQuest survey and patient attitudes toward teledentistry.

[Learn more](#) about implementing teledentistry in Maryland.

MD ATTORNEY GENERAL ALERTS CONSUMERS, CAUTIONS DENTISTS

Charging patients for PPE may violate Consumer Protection Act

In a June 12 advisory, Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh alerted consumers to surcharges by some dental providers that could violate the Consumer Protection Act. Dentists may once again provide elective and non-urgent care if they comply with the Secretary of Health’s May 6, 2020 Order requiring enhanced infection controls, but some providers may be improperly imposing additional fees.

“Consumers have notified us that some reopened practices are collecting additional, upfront amounts for the costs of enhanced infection controls, including personal protective equipment,” said Attorney General Frosh. “Many dental insurance agreements prohibit certain upfront fees and consumers should be aware that this practice may violate the Consumer Protection Act.”

Complaints have generally referenced fees in the range of \$10 - \$20 per visit, but the Office has also heard anecdotally about charges as high as \$172.

Attorney General Frosh’s Consumer Protection Division also sent a letter to the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners and the Maryland State Dental Association alerting the dental provider community to the Office’s position that imposing additional fees, particularly those charged upfront to all patients, may violate the Consumer Protection Act’s prohibition against unfair or deceptive trade practices. Provider-carrier contracts, as well as public and private insurance laws, typically prohibit participating providers from charging such fees to insured consumers.

In the letter, the Division acknowledged that during this emergency, many consumers and dental providers are facing financial challenges, stating, “Maryland’s unemployment rate officially reached 9.9% at the end of April due to the COVID-19 emergency, and consumers are contending with losses of income and benefits that are devastating to them. Our office has little doubt that the dental provider community is also facing financial challenges but trust you will work with us to protect consumers as our laws intend so they may be able to afford the dental care they need.”

ASSISTANT U.S. SURGEON GENERAL JOINS SANTA FE GROUP

RADM Timothy L. Ricks Appointed Senior Scholar

The Santa Fe Group (SFG), a not-for-profit, action-oriented think tank with a passion for improving lives through oral health, announced the appointment of Assistant Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Timothy L. Ricks, D.M.D., M.P.H., F.I.C.D., as Senior Scholar.

In his current role, Rear Admiral Ricks oversees the development of the second-ever Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health. As the Chief Dental Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), he serves concurrently in numerous national roles within the Indian Health Service (IHS). Prior to his more than 20-year service to the USPHS, Dr. Ricks was an associate dentist and military police officer in the Army National Guard. He has received numerous awards for his work serving in leadership capacities for the USPHS while directing multiple national initiatives.



Said Santa Fe Group President Steven W. Kess: “Dr. Ricks has a strong passion for the public good which clearly reflects the Santa Fe Group mission. Further, as our newest Senior Scholar with tremendous national impact, he is uniquely qualified to play a major role in our initiatives as they relate to both the COVID-19 pandemic and the expansion of access to dental care for America’s seniors. We are thrilled to have him join us as we continue to improve oral health, leading to better overall health for all Americans.”

“I am excited to join a wonderful nonprofit organization like the Santa Fe Group that cares so deeply about

the health of all Americans," said RADM Ricks. "My job is to impress upon people the benefits of oral health and the impact of oral health on overall health, and for over 20 years the Santa Fe Group has embraced this charge. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together, as we shine a brighter light on the critical importance of good oral health."

HORIZON FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES TRAUMA SERIES

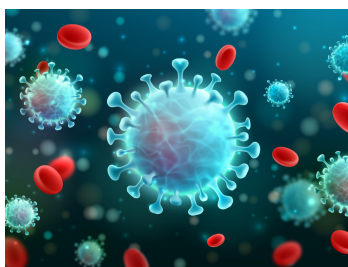
Focuses on frontline workers dealing with the COVID-19 crisis

The Horizon Foundation, in response to the mental health needs of frontline workers, including dental clinicians, dealing with the COVID-19 crisis is hosting a virtual forum on July 8. The forum will offer resources to help essential workers who do not have the option to remove themselves from the pressure of the COVID-19 crisis, and those who may more acutely feel the effects of trauma now and into the future.

The virtual event will include personal reflections from trauma survivors, followed by advice from mental health professionals on how to process and navigate through traumatic experiences. For further information and to register, [click here](#).

PURDUE OFFERS FREE COURSE ON COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING

Teaches tools needed to identify, isolate, and limit the spread of COVID-19



Purdue University Global, part of the Purdue University system, recently launched a free online COVID-19 Contact Tracing Course. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), contact tracing is an effective tool for slowing the transmission of COVID-19 through early identification, assessment, and isolation of individuals who may have been exposed. The purpose of a contact tracer is to call and gather information from those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and communicate appropriate guidelines to help those affected and limit the spread.

The course, designed for individuals and businesses or institutions looking to train their employees on contact tracing guidelines, provides education on how to slow the spread of the virus and keep people safe and healthy. For further information, see <https://www.purdueglobal.edu/covid-19-contact-tracing-course/>

"Low-income people, racial or ethnic minorities, pregnant women, seniors, people with special needs, people in rural areas - they all have a much harder time accessing a dentist than other groups of Americans."

-U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, (I-VT)

NEWS

[When 511 Epidemiologists Expect to Fly, Hug and Do 18 Other Everyday Activities Again](#)

[Lawmaker Presses State Education Dept. on Telehealth for Students](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Reissues Emergency Use Authorizations Revising Which Types of Respirators Can Be Decontaminated for Reuse](#)

ARTICLES

MD ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



[HPI: COVID-19: Economic Impact on Public Health Dental Programs \(Summary Report\)](#)

[The Social Determinants of Death](#)

[2020 Kids Count Profile - Maryland](#)

[Modeling the Impact of COVID-19 on U.S. Dental Spending — June 2020 Update](#)

[Physical Distancing, Face Masks, And Eye Protection To Prevent Person-To-Person Transmission Of SARS-Cov-2 And COVID-19: A Systematic Review And Meta-Analysis](#)

[ADA Responds to Change from CDC on Waiting Period Length](#)

[We Need Lasting Telehealth Policy Changes to Protect us Beyond COVID-19](#)

[Dental Care's New Normal: Provider Survey Reveals the Need to Adapt and Redesign](#)

[Lummi Tribal Health Clinic: Innovative Teledentistry and Access to Dental Care during COVID-19](#)

[Prevalence of Tooth Loss Among Older Adults: United States, 2015–2018](#)

[Implementation of a Behavioral Change Intervention to Enhance Oral Health Behaviors in Elite Athletes: a Feasibility Study](#)

[Senior Oral Health: A Community-Based, Interprofessional Educational Experience for Nursing and Dental Studentsance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#)

[Good Eating and Toothbrushing Practices at Home During COVID-19](#)

WEBINARS

[Best Practices for Re-Opening Dental Clinics: Evolving and Adapting, July 7, 2020](#)

[How Much Further Will the Dental Economy Rebound?, July 7, 2020](#)

[Protecting Medicaid Dental Coverage, July 10, 2020](#)

[Five Trainings for Health Professionals to Integrate Racial Equity Into Practice](#)

[The Impact of Racism on the Health and](#)

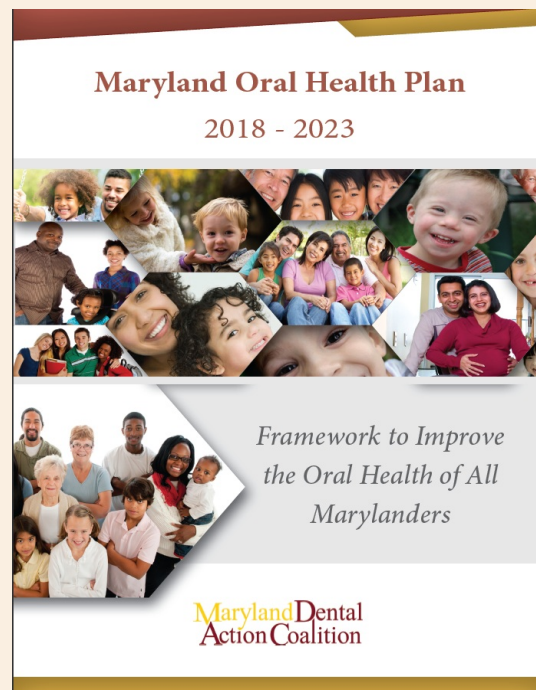
The Maryland Adult Dental Waiver Program is off to a terrific start! According to Maryland Medicaid, from June 1, 2019 December 31, 2019:

- 7,985 claims were submitted
- 4,247 unique members filed valid claims
- 294 members met annual \$800 cap
- 561 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,355,266.96 paid

From January 1, 2020 - June 16, 2020:

- 3,162 claims were submitted
- 2,130 unique members filed valid claims
- 75 members met annual \$800 cap
- 441 unique providers submitted claims
- \$513,622.64 paid year-to-date

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:

- 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

[Well-Being of the Nation \(recorded\)](#)

[The Dental Care Rebound: How Far Have We Gotten and How Far Will We Go? \(recorded\)](#)

[CDC: Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response \(Recorded\)](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

[The Power of Safe Drinking Water and Caries Prevention, July 7, 2020](#)

[Fluoridation Advocacy: How to Share Evidence-Based Findings to Lay Audiences, July 14, 2020](#)

[Mom's Guide to Fluoride, July 27, 2020](#)

[Fluoridation Public Hearings and Grassroots Campaigns, July 29, 2020](#)

EVENTS

In light of federal and state actions to contain COVID-19, the events listed below may be held virtually, postponed, or cancelled. For the most up-to-date information, please check with the event sponsor.

[NACCHO 360 Virtual Conference, July 7-9, 2020](#)

[Coping with Trauma on the Frontline of COVID-19, July 8, 2020](#)

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

[National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing & Media, August 10-12, 2020](#)

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

[Maryland Rural Health Association Annual Conference \(virtual\), October 19 - 20, 2020](#)

- 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.

[DOWNLOAD THE PLAN](#)

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

MDAC MEMBERS' MEETING
July 14, 2020, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us! Learn the outcomes of the 2020 legislative session, get the latest results of the Medicaid adult dental pilot program, learn how COVID-19 is impacting the oral health of children in Head Start and the provision of dental care, and get the latest updates on the MDH Office of Oral Health and MDAC activities.

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Advance registration is required. To register, e-mail info@mdac.us by July 10. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom link will be sent to all registrants.

ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ORAL HEALTH POLICY

[The Fierce Urgency of Now: Federal and State Policy Recommendations to Address Health Inequities in the Era of Covid-19](#)

[Bridging Health Equity and Racial Justice During COVID-19 and Beyond](#)

[Public Policy Partners COVID-19 Resources](#)

Medicaid

[Inequities Amplified by COVID-19: Opportunities for Medicaid to Address Health Disparities](#)

[Early State Trends Signal Massive Surge in Medicaid Enrollment Related to COVID-19](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

RURAL HEALTH

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

[NRHA COVID-19 Resources](#)

ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[Anesthesia and Sedation Used for Oral Healthcare](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCES

[A Guide to Dental Visits During the COVID-19 Outbreak \(video\)](#)

[Caring for Your Teeth During COVID-19](#)

[Steps to Take if a Patient Reports COVID-19 Exposure After Treatment](#)

[Patient Information for Waiting Rooms in Dental Practices \(video/no sound\)](#)

[OSAP/DQP Best Practices for Infection Control in Dental Clinics During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Welcome to Teledentistry: Bringing Patient-Centered Care into the Synchronous Teledental Emergency Visit](#)

[CDC: Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#)

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Resources for Health Departments](#)

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:

- Elizabeth Brewer - GSK Consumer Healthcare
- Avery Brow - Chase Brexton Health Care
- Angela Langville
- Tymarin Ward

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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