

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
Dental Policy Review Committee  
October 27, 2021

**Dental Policy Review Committee Members Present**

Dr. Bill Simon, Illinois State Dental Society  
Dr. Danny Hanna, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Dr. Kathy Shafer, Southern Illinois University  
Dr. Mona VanKanegan, Illinois Department of Public Health  
Dr. Jim Thommes, DentaQuest  
Dr. Jason Grinter, Delta Dental  
Dr. Jorelle Alexander, Cook County Health & Hospitals System  
Dr. Henry Lotsof, Avesis

**Dental Policy Review Committee Members Not Present**

Dr. Cyrus Oates, Oates Dental  
Dr. Gregory Dietz, Children's Center for Dentistry  
Dr. Kylea Tibbs-Hnizdo, Central Counties Health Centers, Inc.

**HFS Staff Present**

Jose Jimenez, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services  
Shelly Defrates Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services  
Ryan Dickerson, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services  
Mary Richey, Office of the Inspector General

**Other Interested Parties**

Liliana Carrasco, Avesis  
Dave Marsh, Illinois State Dental Society  
Dani Brazee, Molina  
Jill Chang, Avesis  
Dana Flood, Avesis  
Judith Ruiz-Branch, IAMHP  
Flavia Lamboghini, Apple Dental Care  
Trisha Rodriguez, IAMHP  
David DePorter, Envolve  
Alaina Kennedy, IAMHP  
David Thielmeier, DentaQuest  
Don Trainor, Avesis  
Mona Martin  
Luciana Sweis, Dental Caravan

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Jose Jimenez, Bureau Chief of Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services (BPAS), called the meeting to order at 1:00.

Mr. Jose Jimenez reminded the board that the meeting will be recorded.

**Introductions**

Ms. Shelly Defrates of Healthcare and Family Services did roll call of committee members, HFS staff and DentaQuest staff.

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**Old Business**

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Jose Jimenez asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from last meeting. Dr. Dany Hanna made a motion to approve the minute. Dr. James Thommes seconded the motion. No one opposed. The minutes were approved and will be posted.

**New Business**

Board Updates

Mr. Jose Jimenez reminded the board that Dr. Mary Margaret Looker and Mary Pat Burgess departed the board. New member Kylea Tibbs-Hnizdo could not attend the meeting. Dr. Bill Simon gave her background until an official introduction could be made.

Board Training

Mr. Jose Jimenez reminded board members that annual trainings needs to be completed as soon as possible. Ms. Shelly Defrates told board member to reach out to her or Mrs. Christina McCutchan have issues locating the trainings.

Future Meetings

The board agreed for the Dental Policy Review Committee to meet on the following dates of 2022:

January 19, 2022  
April 20, 2022  
July 20, 2022  
October 19, 2022

Dental Policy Reference Manual

Mr. Jose Jimenez informed the board that the Dental Office Reference Manual (DORM) is in the queue to be posted. Ms. Shelly Defrates added that all board members have approved it and it's waiting to get posted.

**IMPACT**

Mr. Jose Jimenez asked the board for help spreading the word that the process for renewing licenses in IMPACT is available and they have until the end of the year to get those licenses renewed.

Fee Schedule

Dr. Danny Hanna gave an introduction that in private practice with commercial insurance, it is routine that specialists who have specialty licenses have advanced training. They get a higher fee schedule for the procedures they do.

Dr. Bill Simon asked if an increase to specialty care and a separate fee schedule be worth it to the extent that more specialists would sign onto the program. Dr. James Thommes added that if it couldn't be done then you face the risk of offsetting some of the general practitioners who may feel they are being treated differently.

Dr. James Thommes gave an example that if a general dentist is getting \$52 for an extraction and an oral surgeon is getting \$112 for the extraction, the general dentist isn't going to do

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another extraction. Then the oral surgeons are going to be overwhelmed with Medicaid patients. Dr. James Thommes isn't opposed to it but it's a fine line.

Mr. Jose Jimenez added to move forward there needs to be justification to have the separate fee schedule.

Dr. Bill Simon stated that there's just not enough money to make something like this happen and for it take hold with our legislators would really have to understand the benefit that would come with increasing the Medicaid budget.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan added an alternate fee schedule could greatly decrease capacity and could impact negatively.

Dr. Flavia Lamborghini stated that she could point out a few codes that very few specialists would use and that would attract more pediatric dentists. Dr. Mona VanKanegan asked Dr. Flavia Lamborghini if she's asking the committee to consider additional CDT codes. Dr. Lamborghini thought the school program would benefit from the case management codes. Dr. Falvia Lamborghini said general anesthesia codes and crowns. Dr. James Thommes made a motion to remove the specialty fee schedule from the agenda. Dr. Danny Hanna seconded the motion. No one opposed. Motion approved.

#### Parallel Billing

Mr. Jose Jimenez informed the board that December 31, 2021 could be the end of the public health emergency however it is probably going to be extended. Also, stated that the federal government would give states a 12-month transition period. To make any flexibilities permanent we need to discuss the process and receive a formal recommendation.

Dr. Luciana Sweis stated that she's in full support of moving forward with parallel billing sooner than later. Dr. Bill Simon agreed that there should be something to extend parallel billing. Dr. Danny Hanna made a motion to extend parallel billing permanently as a recommendation. Dr. Bill Simon seconded the motion. No one opposed. Motion approved.

#### Legislation

Mr. Jose Jimenez let the committee know that after working with the Dental Policy Review Committee, the Illinois State Dental Society and other stake holders, we came up with an agreement on the codes as instructed by the legislative process. The recommendations were approved by our agency. The list of codes was shared with our Managed Care Partners and our expectations is that we would have those codes available as of January 1, 2022.

Mr. Jose Jimenez also informed the committee that Rule 140-420 has been filed and due to ex-parte communication requirements we could not discuss the rules. If there are any comments about the old All Kids School Program updates, JCARE is the venue to formalize comments to the rule.

Mr. Dave Marsh updated the committee that they've had discussions about increasing some other rates that they felt were critical and needed to be increased. Added that they have submitted a draft bill that took the same format as the blip bill provisions and codes and amounts and added targeted rates that they felt they wanted to address. Also, that they are meeting with their Access to Care Committee next week and their Government Affairs Committee on November 19<sup>th</sup> to start coming up with their political agenda for next year.

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CDT Code/Benefit Limitations

Dr. James Thommes provided a breakdown of the CDT codes. Most importantly D8050 and D8060 are gone. D4320 and D4321 have been revised and replaced. D9613 is now by quadrant. Most of the other codes are either low use or they are breaking removal away from placement and remove it.

Dr. Bill Simon asked Dr. James Thommes that the codes he presented are not necessarily codes that are a part of our Medicaid reimbursement fee schedule and just bringing them up generally. Dr. James Thommes responded that these are new codes and is more informative. Then we usually look at the codes and say we think these could be added.

Dr. James Thommes recommended adding D5225, D5226, D5227 and D5228 to use a flexible base partial, whether it be regular or immediate and it edits against those other partial denture codes, so it costs the program nothing. Dr. Hanna voiced concerned about the longevity of flexible based partial dentures and ability to add teeth to them and adjust them. Dr. Simon added that he completely understands where Dr. Hanna is coming from and fully agrees with Dr. James Thommes' proposing. Dr. James Thommes rephrased his proposal and asked if anyone thinks we should add those four codes. No one spoke up. Dr. James Thommes said to ignore what he said.

Orthodontia

Mr. Jose Jimenez informed the board that the department has been researching the orthodontia scoring tool and we do not have any updates yet. If we do have any changes to the scoring tool, we would bring those to the committee and give the committee an opportunity to comment.

Illinois Department of Public Health

Dr. Mona VanKanegan updated the committee that the biggest activity for IDPH is the workforce survey. With the license renewal we thought we would distribute the Workforce Survey to understand how much the provider population is enrolled or engaging with the Medicaid population. Dr. Mona VanKanegan encouraged the committee to fill out the survey and help distribute them to their networks to encourage participation.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan also shared that IDPH has published the Oral Health Surveillance System and that it's on the website now. IDPH also has three consultants that are going into school settings to collaborate with the school providers to make sure that the appropriate and safe care is being delivered to the school children.

All Kids Dental School Program

Mr. Jose Jimenez updated the committee with the enrollment which was 33 groups registered and that represents 136 providers.

Dani Brazee of Molina asked if there is any data of the previous year's enrollment. Mr. Jose Jimenez answered that we could make that available.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan asked to talk about a way to continue to increase the capacity of school programs. Adding that the Dental Practice Act allows Public Health Dental Hygienists (PHDH) to serve in school settings. The only service they cannot do is the school exam, but that service can be done through tele-dentistry. If you fold that all in, then a dental hygienist can do all the services that are required in the school setting.

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Mr. Dave Marsh added that as of right now there's nothing in the Practice Act that allows that delegation. Dr. VanKanegan responded that telehealth is allowed until the end of the calendar year so under that provision that HFS has allowed it would expand or include school settings. Mr. Dave Marsh deferred to the department but added if it is allowed it will expire and to make it a permanent expansion, we must determine how to exactly make that work.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan explained that it's an urgent situation with the workforce changes with COVID and trying to expand the capacity. Dr. VanKanegan asked the group to really think about how we can continue to use Public Health Dental Hygienists to really expand care.

Ms. Shelly Debrates asked Dr. Mona VanKanegan how dentists are evaluating kids for an oral exam to be able to give them a carries assessment. Dr. Mona VanKanegan responded that she cannot speak from first person perspective, but the dental hygienist is equipped with a camera and looks inside the child's mouth. They share the video and information with the dentist who fills out a dental examination form and emails it to the dental hygienist. Dr. Luciana Sweis responded that last year they had to do tele dentistry with her patients. The difficulty was they were relying on the patient or patient's family to assist us. However, having a public health dental hygienist in schools might overcome that hurdle.

Dr. Danny Hanna asked Dr. Mona VanKanegan if she's suggesting that the board supports tele dentistry. Dr. VanKanegan answered, yes, in the school program until the public health emergency expires.

Mr. Jose Jimenez suggested since there hasn't been an agenda with the COVID 19 Dental Subcommittee for the last couple of meetings that this could be taken to that committee. And offered to get the COVID Dental Subcommittee meeting moved up to discuss this sooner. Dr. Mona VanKanegan agreed to help the committee connect with someone who can help educate on tele dentistry.

#### COVID Dental Subcommittee Update

Dr. Mona VanKanegan informed the committee that dentists can be vaccine providers in their own offices or as volunteers at mass vaccination sites but must first complete training. If dentists want to provide the COVID vaccine in their own office, they must register with the I-CARE System. When they become an I-CARE approved provider they get a pin and use that to obtain the vaccine form local health departments or FQHC's.

Mr. Dave Marsh added that there's been 1000 dentists that have taken the Just in Time Training and 53 that have taken the four-hour course to be able to provide the vaccine.

Dr. Danny Hanna brought up at UIC that they incorporated that training as part of their curriculum and have graduated roughly 360 dentists for the vaccine training. Dr. Hanna also added there's issue with the ability to give the influenza vaccine. Dentists can give the vaccine but there's no way of billing it through Medicaid.

Dr. Luciana Sweis asked if dentists would be allowed to vaccinate in the schools under the mass vaccination umbrella. Mr. Jose Jimenez answered that that we need to have more discussion and we need to know the interest of our dentists who do this. Then we need to do a gap analysis to see what it would take for the department, DentaQuest, and MCO's to make those administration codes available to all dental providers so you can get paid for administrating the vaccine.

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ISDS Update

Dr. Bill Simon brought up that he included two attachments that were sent to everyone via email. One was the spreadsheet they created that compares rates of different participants in our Medicaid program. It's for informational purposes only. The other attachment was a visual aid of a fee schedule from 2007. Besides the fees that were recently updated the fees are basically the same. Dr. Bill Simon would like the board to consider that.

Dental School Update

Dr. Kathy Shafer updated the committee that their new advanced clinic opened and hopes to be starting anesthesia cases soon. Adding they have an orthodontics program they are pursuing for a residency program. That will be probably a year or two before that's in. Also, they have a long waiting list of people to get in the clinic for oral surgery.

Dr. Danny Hanna added their pediatric outpatient surgical center continues to be busy. Dr. Danny Hanna also wanted to promote the ISDS vaccination course is free to members through the end of the month.

Mr. Jose Jimenez updated the committee that as of October 1, 2021, codes D0330 and D0210 no longer edit against each other for the dental schools.

Adjournment

Dr. Mona VanKanegan made a motion to close the meeting. Dr. Bill Simon seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022