

Dental Policy Review Committee Members Present

James Thommes, Dental Director DentaQuest of Illinois
Henry Lotsof, Avesis
Mary Margaret Looker, Central Counties Health Centers
Randall Markarian, Markarian Orthodontics
Gregory Dietz, Children's Center for Dentistry
Mona VanKanegan, Illinois Department of Public Health
Kathy J. Shafer, Southern Illinois University (SIU)
Jason Grinter, Onsite Dental
Danny Hanna, University of Illinois (UIC)
Bill Simon, Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS)
Mary Pat Burgess, Chicago Department of Public Health

Dental Policy Review Committee Members Not Present

Cyrus Oates, Oates Dental
Jorelle R. Alexander, Cook County Health & Hospitals System

HFS Staff Present

Christina McCutchan (BPAS), Jose Jimenez (BPAS), Shelly Defrates (BPAS),
Ryan Dickerson (BPAS), Mary Richey (OIG)

DentaQuest Staff Present

Kelly Pulliam, David Thielemier

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Christina McCutchan, Dental Manager for Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan explained the procedure for the meeting due to being done through Web Ex.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan reminded attendees that the committee is comprised of selected committee members that are committed to share their expertise, review policy and procedures, express challenges they are experiencing and make recommendations to the Department to positively impact the health of our dental members. She reminded attendees that this committee is not a managed care committee and will only deal with fee-for-service issues.

II. Introductions

Mrs. Christina McCutchan did roll call of committee members, HFS staff and DentaQuest staff.

III. OLD BUSINESS

January 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if any committee members had any comments or opposition to posting the January 20, 2021 meeting minutes. There were no objections so Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated the minutes would be posted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Announcements

Mrs. Christina McCutchan told the board that Desirey Ackermann from Professional Ancillary Services has taken a new position with the Department of Aging.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan also brought to everyone's attention that on March 12, 2021, Governor Pritzker signed the Healthcare Transformation Bill to invest up to \$150 million to underserved communities, increasing access to community health services.

Board Updates

Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that all the board members completed their 2020 trainings and requested that board members start on their 2021 trainings.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that several committee members met with the Illinois Association of Managed Health Plans, the Bureau of Managed Care, and the MCO's regarding dental concerns on March 4, 2021. At that meeting they all agreed to work with the dental programs to try to alleviate some of the barriers we're experiencing with the dental program. They are meeting again on May 22nd.

CDT Codes/Benefit Limitations

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked Dr. Danny Hanna and Dr. Kathy Shafer if they had any updates to give. Dr. Danny Hanna asked about removing the limits on D0330 – Panoramic Film at the dental schools because of COVID. Dr. Shafer agreed. Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated she would investigate and get back to the committee at the next meeting.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that we did get approval to change some of the benefit limitations for the school codes, but only during the public health emergency.

D0120 Periodic Oral Exam will be available once every six months in an office setting and participants are also eligible for one evaluation D0120 performs in a school setting per school year. For ages 0 to 20 the completion of the mandated school exam form is considered part of the oral exam.

The D1120 Prophylaxis instead of one D1120 and D4355 per six months in an office or school setting. Now is one D1120 and D4355 per 6 months in an office/mobile setting in addition to one per six months in a school setting. Ages 0-20.

D1206 Topical Application of Fluoride Varnish instead of one D1206, D1208 per six months in an office or school setting now one D1206, D1208 per six months in an office in addition to 1 per six months in a school setting. Ages 3-20.

D1351 Sealant instead of 1 per lifetime per patient per tooth, regardless of place of service it is now 1 for 2 years per patient per tooth regardless of place of service.

Dr. Jason Grinter asked do we know when the emergency will end? Mr. Jose Jimenez stated that the COVID emergency has been extended until the end of 2021.

Dr. James Thommes gave an update on what he found regarding code D0251 Extra-Oral Posterior Dental Radiographic Image. It's not a readily used code and no one has requested us to add this during the pandemic. We do have three markets that allow this code and they all have limitations.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked the board if the code was really needed.

Dr. James Thommes said it seems like a code that there's not a demand for. Dr. Lotsof agreed with Dr. James Thommes and Dr. Danny Hanna said he doesn't see much use for it now.

Dr. Danny Hanna asked about adding codes and that there is no coverage currently for Endodontics retreats. Proposed where we cover a root canal procedure, we cover a retreat at the same fee schedule.

Dr. Danny Hanna shared an example that there was a child who had a failing root canal and there's no coverage for retreats, so we ended up extracting that tooth. Currently root canals are covered on front teeth for adults and all teeth for children.

Dr. James Thommes said the limitation on the regular root canal code would be one for a lifetime because you can only do an initial root canal one time. As pointed out retreats are not covered so you would have the code to allow it because it will be counterintuitive to allow root canal more than once a tooth.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan said she will follow up on the code along with the panoramic x-rays.

Dr. Danny Hanna stated the codes are D3346, D3347 and D3348 and looking at the fiscal analysis of avoiding surgical extractions.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan asked how many endodontists take Medicaid besides UIC/SIU.

CARES Act Provider Relief Funding

Mrs. Christina McCutchan provided an update on the CARES Act Provider Relief Funding. Provider notice went out on February 24, 2021 and March 11, 2021 that provided information on reporting template.

Total amount of subaward fund for dental was \$10 million and was sent out to 76 dental providers. There were 4 dental providers that returned the funds because they couldn't be spent in the time frame. All unspent subaward funds must be returned to HFS' Bureau of Fiscal Operations (BFO).

COVID Dental Subcommittee

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that since the last Board meeting the COVID Dental Subcommittee met on February 3, 2021, via teleconference and the next meeting is scheduled on June 8, 2021.

Dr. Jason Grinter submitted a report to the committee on issues discussed at both COVID Dental Subcommittee meetings that took place since the last Board meeting.

The meeting had a mixture of board members and school providers. Topics covered at the meeting included:

- CARES Act Funding
- All Kids School Dental Program
- COVID Vaccine Requirements
- Providers Capacity Concerns

Illinois Department of Public Health Update

HFS has lifted the temporary postponement of the All Kids School Dental Program. HFS and DPH agree that it is beneficial to have the All Kids School Dental Program available to school districts, day care centers and Head Start programs that allow dental providers back into their facilities. However, , we recognize that reopening are local decisions based on positivity rates and really depends on what's going on in your local community. School based providers should be working with local health departments and following CDC infection control guide for school-based programs.

Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) Update

Dr. William Simon updated the board on two bills that are in legislation related to Medicaid reimbursement rates.

The Medicaid bill related to reimbursement rates has come out of committee. The bill is written in a form that is requesting legislation to elevate the reimbursement for Medicaid procedures to that of the state employees reimbursement rate, in particular anesthesia reimbursements and many of the restorative rates.

The other legislation they are working on relates to the school-based program, Senate Bill 2520.

Ms. Mary Pat Burgess told the committee that Chicago Public Schools(CPS) has an RFP going out for a pilot program where local dental offices will get specific CPS to provide the dental services in the school and be responsible for the follow treatment if needed.

Dr. Henry Lotsof asked will ISDS help with referral network if this bill is passed.

IMPACT

Mrs. Christina McCutchan reminded everyone that dental providers licenses will expire on September 30, 2021 and asked everyone that when they get their license renewed to double check their IMPACT enrollment and verify everything is correct. Hoping at the next meeting someone from IMPACT can join.

FQHC Update

Mrs. Christina McCutchan did not have any updates but noted at the last meeting the rates had come out.

Dr. Mary Margaret Looker asked what should be done with referrals and what is a reasonable travel distance for patience and reasonable wait times before they have access to a specialist.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that we have lost providers due to COVID and the number of patients that can be seen in a day. She asked if the committee had any ideas for restorative cases.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan asked if Dr. James Thommes could share what other states do for incentives.

Dr. James Thommes stated most are on the preventive codes and doesn't know of any financial incentives.

Dr. VanKanegan asked are they required to have diagnosis code on claims. Dr. Thommes said No.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan thought it was a perfect agenda item to add for the MCO meeting, especially since they're over 80% of our population.

V. Open Discussion

Before opening the floor up to open discussion, Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if any of the committee members had anything else to discuss. Nothing else was brought up.

VI. Adjournment

Mrs. Christina McCutchan adjourned at 2:21 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2021 at 1 pm.