

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Dental Policy Review Committee
January 19, 2022

Dental Policy Review Committee Members Present

Dr. Henry Lotsof, Avesis
Dr. Mona VanKanegan, Illinois Department of Public Health
Dr. Kathy Shafer, Southern Illinois University
Dr. Jason Grinter, Delta Dental
Dr. Jim Thommes, DentaQuest
Dr. Randall Markarian, Markarian Orthodontics
Dr. Bill Simon, Illinois State Dental Society
Dr. Danny Hanna, University of Illinois Chicago
Dr. Kylea Tibbs-Hnizdo, Central Counties Health Centers, Inc.

Dental Policy Review Committee Members Not Present

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

HFS Staff Present

Christina McCutchan, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services
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

Dave Marsh, Illinois State Dental Society
Lindsay Wagahoff, Illinois State Dental Society
Kelly Pulliam, DentaQuest
David Thielemier, DentaQuest
Aaron Washburn, DentaQuest
Trisha Rodriguez, IAMHP

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Christina McCutchan, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services (BPAS), called the meeting to order at 1:02.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that the minutes were sent out a couple of weeks ago and we got one change last night. It was not a material change, so it was updated. Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked if there was opposition to the minutes. There was no opposition so the minutes will be posted to our website.

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NEW BUSINESS

Board Updates

Mr. Jose Jimenez talked about the new structure to the committee, stating that what is unusual about this committee is we don't have a structure within the board. To fully comply with the Open Meetings Act in our bylaws, we should have a Chair and a Co-Chair. Mr. Jose Jimenez suggested working on the bylaws and at the next meeting have elections to identify a Chair and a Co-Chair. That would help facilitate the discussions and put motions in place. It would be a true representation of the body and not influenced by HFS. HFS will continue to support the meeting with time, space, taking the minutes and setting the agenda. Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the board that we will work with our legal team to get the bylaws updated as a draft and it will be sent around before the next meeting. Mrs. Christina McCutchan also asked the committee to think of someone to nominate as Chair and Co-Chair.

Dr. Kylea Tibbs-Hnizdo introduced herself as the new board member and announced that she is transitioning from Central County Health Center to a different FQHC at the end of February.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan announced that Dr. Gregory Dietz is no longer on the committee. We wish him the best and thankful for his time on the committee. If you could think of any individual that would like to join the committee to please send that information to her.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the board that 2021 trainings have now closed out. Many members did all their trainings, but some did not. We are waiting on guidance from HFS on what they are going to do about this. Each individual board member must log into OneNet and do the five trainings for the 2022 year. If you do not have your ID or password let us know and we can it to you.

Dental Program Updates

Dental Fee Schedule

Mrs. Christina McCutchan informed the board that the 2022 dental fee schedule was posted, and the state plan amendment was approved. The MCO's and DentaQuest should both be paying the higher rates. If any provider notices they are not being paid the correct amount, please let HFS know. Rates are effective January 1, 2022. Dr. Jason Grinter asked if we're still moving forward with the changes in the benefit limitations for some of the preventative services done inside the school versus the office and does it apply also to the MCO's. Mrs. Christina McCutchan answered yes and that both fee-for-service and MCOs are complying.

Parallel Billing

Mrs. Christina McCutchan also told the board that HFS met with administration and they agreed to allow the parallel billing in both office and the school setting as permanent policy. We're working on the Rule and policy changes. There was one change, sealant will be one per five years instead of one for a lifetime. Mr. Jose Jimenez emphasized that this was a recommendation from the group at the last meeting.

Public Health Dental Hygienists

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Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that HFS has agreed to the recommendation of allowing the public health dental hygienists to do preventative treatment in the schools under the general supervision of a dentist. Mrs. McCutchan added that this policy is not in place yet because we are in the process of creating our rules and policy. It will be going up for second notice in February. If you have any comments or recommendations, please go to JCAR to do that. We are limited to discuss.

Orthodontia

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that HFS had several orthodontic cases reviewed using both the Handicapping Labio-Lingual Deviation (HLD) scoring tool, as well as the American Association of Orthodontics (AAO) medically necessary orthodontic care criteria to see if it was feasible to switch from using the HLD to the AAO. The reviewers were not in any way associated to the Medicaid program and reviewed cases from fair hearing appeals, as well as cases that Dr. Randall Markarian provided. As result of the reviews, it was apparent the switch would have a significant rate increase and because it is not in our current budget, HFS cannot approve the change at this time.

Mr. Jose Jimenez added that HFS looked at the history of the tool and how the tool dictates the cost for the program. Financially, HFS ran data in terms of what it would cost to make changes to the tool. At this point, based on utilization from when we had a different version of the tool would represent a significant increase to our budget. To the extent that we might not necessarily be able to move forward with this change at this time. Without having additional discussions and commitments to be able to sustain that change.

Dr. Randall Markarian explained the reason he brought up the scoring system, stating that there are gross inconsistencies in how the HLD is scored from company to company and consultant to consultant within a company. The real issue with orthodontics right now is the lack of consistency. Dr. Randall Markarian asked if we can move forward using the AAO guidelines and maybe modifying those so they meet Illinois financial guidelines. It becomes a more objective system and does not require a subjective analysis. Dr. Markarian said he would agree to a stricter system that is more consistent in what he can give customers as far as expectations for approval.

Mr. Jose Jimenez added that there will be mandates for managed care companies moving forward as they must post their criteria online in terms of how services are approved. Not just for dental but in general starting this year. Dr. Danny Hanna asked if the AAO tool would provide more consistency. Dr. Randall Markarian answered that the AAO scoring form basically lists conditions that exist, a list of auto qualifiers so would be easier.

Dr. Danny Hanna asked for clarification that there wasn't objection to using this tool, but a concern of an increase in spending because of a higher level of case acceptance. Mr. Jose Jimenez answered yes, for any of these initiatives, HFS must look at the fiscal impact to the program and to the state and HFS' budget. We'll need more discussion and additional support for this to become a reality. Dr. Danny Hanna asked if there's a way to implement this tool with a stricter criteria that would have a neutral financial impact. Mr. Jose Jimenez answered that when forecasting costs we have to make several assumptions and at this point it would impact our budget line significantly and why we need to maybe pause on this for now until we can figure out more of a strategy behind it.

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Dr. Randall Markarian had a concern with a recent weird approval. Normally when submitting for pre-authorization, we submit utilizing the diagnostic procedures, the x-rays, photographs, and the orthodontics code for comprehensive treatment. He found out they were only approved for the initial appliance placement but not approved for the rest of the treatment. Mrs. McCutchan asked Dr. James Thommes and anyone at DentaQuest when they are requesting for orthodontia prior approval does the provider have to put on the D8080 and then all the adjustments on that claim or can it just be the D8080. Dr. James Thommes said that we do add them. There was something that misaligned there. We add the adjustments whether they're on the form or not.

Provider Enrollment

Mrs. Christina McCutchan reminded the board the IMPACT dental licenses expired through the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation on December 31st. We have been told by the Bureau Chief of IMPACT that all the dental licenses are correct. If any provider has any issues with their IMPACT enrollment contact IMPACT at IMPACT.HELP@illinois.gov or there's a phone number on our website.

Illinois Department of Public Health Update

Dr. Mona VanKanegan shared her thanks for the work on the public health dental hygienist and the parallel billing issues. These will have a huge impact in access to prevention and especially in the school setting. Dr. Mona VanKanegan then shared their division is working with cancer program to do the HPV webinar, which is January 26th. There's almost 200 dentists and dental hygienist already registered.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan also shared that their oral health division is also working with the Office of Health Care Regulation and will be distributing a notice of funding opportunities directed to improving oral health education and actions by staff that work in Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities. It's an effort to improve the oral health status through daily and regular monitoring and helping residents keep their mouth in good shape.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan then informed the committee that they published the Illinois Oral Health Plan IV and working on the 2020 update. We should have it sometime in the spring or summer.

Illinois State Dental Society Update

Dr. Bill Simon shared some thoughts pertaining to his private practice and ISDS and asked everyone to be diligent and know that every time there's an increase to the budget and services there could be some effort to abuse the system and create waste and fraud. We need to be aware of what is going on and checking the metrics of what is exactly happening. Dr. Simon hoped moving forward that we can work together to look at some of the metrics as to what, how, and by whom procedures are being done and make sure that fraud and waste and abuse are not issues.

Dr. Bill Simon brought up some of the disparities in the fee schedule for different procedures and how that can potentially be changed. And moving forward we can get to a place where it can evaluate the entirety of the codes. Dr. Bill Simon brought up adding some of the D0999 codes and listed Connecticut and Nevada as a couple of states that cover some of these codes, he added that to the FQHC's and non-profit endeavors, these codes could be very important. Dr. Bill Simon also would like some of the procedure codes that need pre-authorization to be

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revisited as some cannot wait for pre-authorization. Dr. Bill Simon gave the example of some type of splinting that may occur in relation to trauma.

Dr. Bill Simon raised concern that missed appointments is a huge issue especially with decrease capacity and feels there should some system in place that puts responsibility on the customers to keep their appointments. Dr. Bill Simon asked Mrs. Christina McCutchan to add some of these issues to the next agenda.

Mr. Dave Marsh informed the committee that we have two bills in the general assembly a Senate and a House bill that continues the discussion on the rate increase from last year. He would like to have discussions with HFS on how to implement some of these bills, knowing HFS cannot commit to any budgetary increase.

Mr. Dave Marsh shared that Representative Kifowit has been exploring with the Department of Veterans Affairs support for a pilot program. It would run through HFS and their agency as an interoffice cooperation to identify veterans around the state that aren't eligible for Medicaid and don't have insurance. The program would give a voucher from HFS to the dentist that the customer would be eligible. The dentist would sign up and be willing to treat those veterans at a reduce fee and then get partially reimbursed by HFS. This is just in the conception idea right now.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan stated that if any board members would like to go through the fee schedule and notate which codes we should discuss at the next meeting we can add that to the agenda.

Dental School Update

Dr. Danny Hanna announced that UIC can say that they have treated over 1,000 patients in the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation Pediatric Dentistry Outpatient Care Center. Dr. Hanna also shared that they have completed their seven-year accreditation and passed with no recommendations. Also, their Dean has accepted a position in Iowa so there will be changes in the future, but there's a great team in place that will keep things moving forward.

Dr. Kathy Shafer shared their Surgery Center is up and running and hope to be in full force by February. They have a long waiting list already and a long waiting list for sedation and pediatric cases waiting to get screened. Dr. Shafer told the committee that their Dean has retired, and they are in the process of doing a Dean search.

FQHC Update

Dr. Kylea Tibbs-Hnizdo brought up that their biggest issue is finding referral resources. There is a large list of referral resources that when called they are not in network or no longer accepting Medicaid customers. Dr. Kylea Tibbs-Hnizdo asked if there is any accountability with these insurance providers and updating their list so customers don't spend days calling numbers and getting nowhere. Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that the fee-for-service experiences the same issues. Ideally our IMPACT system has a system showing which provider is in which MCO and whether they are accepting customers. However, it is not a feature that is on right now. Mrs. McCutchan added that she will add it to the agenda for the next MCO meeting. Mr. Jose Jimenez introduced Ms. Trisha Rodriguez and asked if she had any thoughts. Ms. Trisha Rodriguez answered she did not at this time but was taking notes and it's something that she can take back to the plans for discussion.

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Open Discussion

No additional issues were brought up.

Adjournment

Mrs. McCutchan adjourned the meeting at 2:16 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2022