

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
Dental Policy Review Committee  
July 14, 2021

**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  
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  
Jorelle R. Alexander, Cook County Health & Hospitals System

**Dental Policy Review Committee Members Not Present**

Mona VanKanegan, Illinois Department of Public Health  
Cyrus Oates, Oates Dental  
Gregory Dietz

**HFS Staff Present**

Christina McCutchan (BPAS)  
Shelly Defrates (BPAS)  
Ryan Dickerson (BPAS)  
Robert Mendonsa

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan, Dental Manager for Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

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.

**Introductions**

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

**Old Business**

**April 14, 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.

## **New Business**

### **Announcements**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan announced that Dr. Mary Margaret Looker is resigning her position from this committee effective after the meeting.

### **Board Updates**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that one committee member had completed their 2021 trainings and asked that all members complete their trainings as soon as possible.

### **COVID Dental Subcommittee Update**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that our next Dental Subcommittee meeting will be held on August 3, 2021. The minutes from our last meeting are posted on our website.

### **Dental Program Updates**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan told the committee that DentaQuest has renewed their contract for one more year. The current contract expires June 2022.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan reminded the committee that dental licenses expire September 30, 2021 and when providers update their license on IDFP they need to update their license in IMPACT. For IMPACT questions please call or email IMPACT.

### **Legislation**

Mr. Dave Marsh reminded the committee that the emphasis of the legislature, and their intent was to increase restorative rates and anesthesia rates specifically to address the need for both the dentist who need to provide the restored services and the kids and adults and the backlog need of anesthesia for both children and disabled adults.

Mr. Dave Marsh added that Governor Pritzker signed Senate Bill 346 that lays out the statutory framework for the department and the sealant program for the school program. It doesn't change anything at this point but allows us to start working with the interested parties to come up with a better way of determining a dental home for the kids that are under that program.

Mary Pat Burgess, RDH, MBA asked if the increase in the prevention service care of the exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments and sealants have gone by the wayside? Mr. Dave Marsh responded that when the leaders of the legislature indicated that there was a set amount of money we had to prioritize and thought of the most important aspects that needed to be increased based on that funding availability.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that Dr. Gregory Dietz could not attend the meeting but wanted to share his thoughts on the rate increase. From a pediatric standpoint, I think we need the biggest reimbursement raises in the services to help children with the most significant dental diseases.

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Dr. Danny Hanna added that there are specialty licenses for dentists and that is how you could track the fee schedule for who's eligible for what. If we had a specialty fee schedule available, we would attract more pediatric dentists. Dr. Bill Simon agreed having a specialty fee schedule would be beneficial. However, the difference between the existing fee and what they would need to be to attract specialty dental providers is so far apart it would be a difficult thing to accomplish. Dr. James Thommes added the risk of having a specialized fee schedule could desensitize the general dentists already providing services at a lower rate. Dr. Randall Markarian disagreed and as an orthodontist who struggles to find oral surgeons a specialized fee schedule would encourage oral surgeons to participate.

### **CDT Codes/Benefits**

Dr. Jason Grinter encouraged the committee to look at code D0210 because it's still at \$30.10. It does not take much to get to that rate. Especially seeing adults, it negates the entire premise of increasing those fees for radiographs. Mrs. Christina McCutchan showed the increase of intraoral-first film and intraoral one additional film rates along with the two bitewings increased as well.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked the committee if we wanted to increase the complete series for the bitewings or take away the complete series and have them billed individually. Dr. Henry Lots of answered changing the fee on the D0210 so it reflects what we've been talking about would make more sense. Dr. James Thommes added a full series usually consists of 14 of those D0220 and bitewings and you would end up if you left it separated out and not have the D0210 logically you'd have about a 100 series. Mrs. Christina McCutchan said we would do a fiscal and see about getting that increased as well.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan brought up there were questions about the MCO's and fee for service following the parallel billing guidelines. She explained that we reached out to every MCO and they confirmed they are following the guidelines and if anyone has an example of a MCO not following the guideline to let her know. Mrs. Christina McCutchan added that we can request a permanent change however it will take time due to the requirements and benefit limitations are in rule.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked the committee for positives or negatives about parallel billing. Ms. Mary Pat Burgess answered that a positive is school programs could exist and dental programs could exist and weren't stepping on each other over services and billing. Along with less confrontation for the families trying to go from a school program to a dental office. Mrs. Christina McCutchan said she would send a recommendation to administration to approve the change.

Dr. Kathy Shafer brought up code D0330 and at the dental schools a full mouth series is generally taken, but if there's surgical procedures the oral surgeons always want a panoramic x-ray. The highest thing we turn over to collections is a payment for the panoramic x-ray. Dr. Shafer added if we can cover what is needed that would help us out along with the patients. Dr. Hanna added that another major issue that affects both schools is wisdom teeth and molar extractions are referred to both schools primarily and if the patient has a panoramic that's

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outdated or they had a FMX within three years, they won't have coverage for needing a more recent panoramic. Dr. Jorelle Alexander brought up that it's not just affecting the dental schools but at the county as well. Mrs. Christina McCutchan said she would get a write up about lifting the benefit limitation for D0330 and will send to the committee.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan brought up from the last meeting that before she writes up a recommendation for Root canal therapy retreat that it is for kids and adults. Dr. Danny Hanna brought up that currently for adults only root canals are covered on anterior teeth and he would do the same for retreats, and though most people would be supportive of having one retreat in a lifetime. Dr. Danny Hanna would like it for all children's teeth. Dr. James Thommes added that there should be some time limitation and possibly not allow it by the same provider. Dr. Hanna supported Dr. James Thommes comments. Dr. Kathy Shafer also supports this but hoped that they don't mean the same provider as an entity, such as a school because it may have been treated by a pre-doctoral student initially and then it may go to a grad program post operatively. Dr. Kathy Shafer would like it covered even though it's in the same entity.

### **Illinois State Dental Society**

Dr. Bill Simon shared that the Illinois Dental Society has the Just In Time training available to non-members and members at no charge. Dr. Bill Simon added that they are in the process of developing the four-hour training to allow doctors to provide COVID and flu vaccines and are hoping for an August 1, release date. Dr. Simon raised the question of where and how the doses come to the dentists regarding the COVID vaccination. Mrs. Christina McCutchan responded that she believes it's a DPH issue and will send an email to see what needs to be done.

Mr. Dave Marsh asked if Medicaid providers are able to treat the Medicaid population if they would be reimbursed with the reimbursement schedule that HFS has put out. Mrs. Christina McCutchan responded that would have to work with our medical area to see what can be done.

Dr. Danny Hanna asked if they are going to be accepting dental vaccination codes or are the dentists going to be expected to submit medical claim forms. Mrs. Christina McCutchan answered that is something we will have to decide because we do not currently have the CDT codes in our system as an allowable code right now. If allowed on the dental side to be billed as a dental code, we will have to add it as will the MCO's. Mrs. McCutchan added that we will look at every avenue and see what's the easiest way if we get the approval do so.

### **IDPH Update**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that the CDC released guidance for dental settings and update guidance for school's kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and they are on the CDC website.

### **All Kids School Program**

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Mrs. Christina McCutchan shared that HFS has lifted its temporary postponement to the All Kids School Program. The response has been positive, and everyone has recognized the value of the program. Mrs. Christina McCutchan added that this year's registration will be different, and providers can now enroll on our website. The FY22 Quality and Safe Care Assessment checklist will also be on the website.

Mrs. Christina McCutchan addressed questions regarding legislation about the Dental 306 to All Kids School Program referrals and that it isn't changing policy, we already have this policy. It's just putting it into rule.

Mary Pat Burgess, RDH, MBA updated the committee on the RFP for the CDPH pilot program that both RFP's are processing their way through law.

## **DORM**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan asked the committee if they had any updates or changes that they saw in the DORM to be sent back to her by next week.

## **FQHC**

Dr. Mary Margaret Looker shared that other FQHC's are working with SIU School of Dental Medicine and having the students see more patients, which is good experience for students because they may have longer rotations at each of those sites.

## **UIC and SIU Dental School Updates**

Dr. Danny Hanna brought up they have trouble getting contacts at the MCO's to get their credentialing updated. Mr. Robert Mendonsa added that at his regular meetings with providers he's heard nothing but great feedback and there's a disconnect from Dr. Hanna's experience and the rest of the provider community.

Dr. Kathy Shafer announced that their clinic is going to have its grand opening on August 9. Dr. Kathy Shafer added that there's been some issues with teaching licenses through IMPACT and will have a conversation with the director of IMPACT.

## **Orthodontia**

Dr. Randall Markarian said it's time to look at HLD scoring and AAO scoring. Dr. Randall Markarian stated his biggest issue is inconsistent scoring and we need to have simple guidelines and it's terrible for his office and the patients because they cannot appropriately guide people if they can expect coverage or not. Mrs. Christina McCutchan said she will send the HLD and the AAO to our members for review and ask their comments. Dr. David DePorter from Envolve brought up that they have been using the AAO criteria and supplementing it with the HLD and has made reviewing appeals much easier and more efficient.

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**Adjournment**

Mrs. Christina McCutchan adjourned the meeting at 2:29 P.M.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2021