

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
Dental Policy Review Committee  
July 26, 2023

**Dental Policy Review Committee Members Present**

Dr. Jason Grinter, Chair, Delta Dental  
Dr. Bill Simon, Vice Chair, Illinois State Dental Society  
Dr. Danny Hanna, University of Illinois Chicago  
Dr. Flavia Lamberghini, University of Illinois Chicago/Apple Dental Care  
Dr. Henry Lotsof, Avesis  
Dr. Cyrus Oates, Oates Dental  
Dr. Sharon Perlman, Oral Health Consultant  
Dr. James Thommes, DentaQuest  
Dr. Ryan Tuscher, PCC Community Wellness Center  
Ann Tuscher, Chicago Department of Public Health  
Dr. Mona VanKanegan, Illinois Department of Public Health  
Dr. Kathy Shafer, Southern Illinois University

**Dental Policy Review Committee Members Not Present**

Dr. David DePorter, Envolve

**HFS**

Dr. Arvind Goyal, HFS Medical Director  
Jose Jimenez, Bureau Chief - Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services  
Kelly Pulliam, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services  
Christina McCutchan, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services  
Bradley Ray, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services  
Mary Richey, Office of the Inspector General

**Other Interested Parties**

Lindsay Wagahoff, Illinois State Dental Society

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Jason Grinter called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Dr. Sharon Perlman made a motion to start the meeting. Dr. Ryan Tuscher second the motion.

Dr. Grinter reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded; adding that it's an open meeting so everyone is welcome to attend but asked only board members speak until the Open Discussion at the end.

**OLD BUSINESS**

### **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Dr. Grinter asked if anyone had changes to the April 26, 2023, meeting minutes. Dr. Perlman stated she had one small change: On the first paragraph after the word, "its", please insert not. Making the sentence read "it's not okay" on the last line of the first paragraph. No other changes were added. Dr. Grinter requested a motion to approve and post with changes the meeting minutes from April 26, 2023. Dr. Perlman made a motion to approve and post the minutes. Dr. Flavia Lamberghini second the motion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Board Updates**

Ms. Christina McCutchan reminded all board members of the 2023 trainings that must be completed. Any board member that believes to have completed similar trainings, should send a copy of completion to HFS Dental programs for review by the HFS Bureau of Training.

Dr. Simon stated he really appreciates potentially bringing forth other trainings from other places that could qualify for these trainings and asked for a report be sent to board members so they would know what exactly is required. Ms. McCutchan responded that the committee should be able to access all trainings on OneNet but would see if the HFS Bureau of Training would get a list that could be shared.

Dr. Sharon Perlman asked for HFS to share the link to all board members for checking access to the State of Illinois trainings so that board members may double check to see if they were current. Ms. McCutchan informed the committee that would send out to everyone.

Ms. McCutchan then asked board members if they would be interested in a refresher on the procedures for Robert's Rules of Order. Dr. Grinter agreed that a refresher would be a good idea but suggesting doing as a webinar so that it won't occupy time during the next Dental Policy Review Committee meeting.

#### **Dental Program Updates**

##### **Silver Diamine Fluoride/School Program**

Dr. Lamberghini stated that she got together virtually with Dr. Perlman and Ann Tuscher prior to the meeting to discuss thoughts on the possibility of allowing Silver Diamond Fluoride (SDF) in the schools for pediatric patients. Dr. Lamberghini prepared a presentation and asked Ms. McCutchan to forward to board members via email after the meeting.

According to Dr. Lamberghini, caries is the most prevalent childhood disease, especially among low-income populations. To reduce caries in children, the CDC recommends dental sealants and topical fluorides as part of a school-based caries prevention program. Similarly, the WHO lists *SDF* and *glass ionomer* as essential medicines for

dental caries. The efficacy of these treatments is well established: Fluoride varnish had a 70% reduction in demineralized white lesions compared with placebo; Sealants significantly reduce caries incidence and arrest the progression of non-cavitated lesions, showing an 11% reduction in the proportion of carious surfaces when comparing sealants with no sealant; and SDF reduces the risk of caries and controls caries progression. Use of SDF in school-based programs is cost effective, can be applied in less time than dental sealants and can be provided by dentists or dental hygienists, as well as registered nurses. As a result, SDF may improve the reach and effectiveness of caries prevention program as a public health intervention in schools.

Per Dr. Lamberghini, there was a great study that was published by New York, showing the effect of SDF on Caries Arrest and Prevention through a school based clinical trial. They took 47 schools, almost 3000 kids, between February 2019 and June 2023 with at least 80% of the kids had participated in the reduced lunch program. Results show that SDF in schools is very effective.

Dr. Grinter stated that he was curious to know about the study and discuss with Chicago Public Schools to get their thoughts. Ms. Tuscher stated that it would need to be a trial with a few schools with definite parameters because there are concerns before bringing it into the schools.

Dr. Perlman then stated that the study showed that SDF is very effective, but the issue is that staining will occur if there are caries, and it appears that there is no capacity at this time to provide restorative care to children. The primary concern is that this can cause a very serious negative effect on the social impact of children for teasing.

Dr. Grinter agreed stating that if there's a commitment to continue to explore this, the committee can review it together on a quarterly basis until we get to a level of comfort and are ready for implementation. Per the consensus, we're not ready to move forward with any recommendations to open it up in the school-based setting at this point.

Dr. Jim Thommes stated that he was the one that brought this topic up originally and understood that we may not have the capacity but stated that the school program had always been set up that if you have children with decay that they're supposed to be followed up on and obviously that happens in some cases. The primary concern is if the child could benefit from it in a school environment.

Dr. Mona VanKanegan then stated that in the previous meeting, we talked about limiting this as a pilot with schools that have better follow up and limiting it to just posterior teeth.

Dr. Grinter interjected by saying that during our next meeting in a few months, we'll get an update and see where we are with this topic.

**Coding for D4346**

Dr. Grinter then moved meeting to address D4346 coding. Dr. VanKanegan stated that D4346 scaling in the presence of generalized, moderate or severe changeable inflammation. Currently HFS does not cover this in the school setting. Dr. VanKanegan stated, in addition, just by having a conversation with Dr. Grinter and HFS, we do not have data on the use of D1110, which is the adult prophylaxis definition, or D4346 in the school setting as these are not currently covered. So, as a first step, Dr. VanKanegan suggested an informal conversation about opening codes D1110 and D1120 in the school setting.

Dr. Grinter then stated that we need a baseline for adding D4346 into the school or office. Dr. Bill Simon stated that he agrees that we need to get this coding to the right spot and perhaps a good first step is to add all these codes as cost neutral. Dr. Grinter stated that it's a point well taken but the board cannot make a recommendation without any data, and we currently have nothing to go on. Dr. Grinter recommended adding D4346 in the office and school setting and a D1110 into the school setting. Again, they would bump up against each other so it would be cost neutral.

Dr. Thommes made a motion to add D1110 and D4346 to the school program and allow in the office; matching the fee of the D1110 and they would use D1120 and then would edit it against each other for frequency.

All board members were in favor, except one objection by Dr. Simon. Dr. Grinter stated that hearing the majority say yes, we will move forward with making a recommendation on adding the different codes to the different places of service to reflect more accurately what is being done and then we will continue to follow up as time goes on and we collect more data.

Dr. Perlman then wanted to make a follow up motion that the committee evaluate this in 6 months to see if it is effective and cost neutral and to consider, terminating if it is not. Dr. Grinter clarified that it will be cost neutral. All board members agreed to evaluate in 6 months.

### **D1310 Vaccine and Counseling Code**

Dr. Sharon Perlman gave an update on code D1310. (Vaccine and counseling). Dr. Perlman clarified that this is for all immunizations, not just one vaccine, as it effects all individuals, especially for influenza, stating that it is especially pertinent is the effect on the HPV vaccination for oral pharyngeal cancer and the National Cancer Institute estimates that in this year, there will be over 54,000 cases and over 11,000 individuals will lose their lives in Illinois. Oral cancer is basically static across the country. Dr. Perlman said that she'd first like to have this code adopted, but then have a follow up piece of information to educate providers on where to find resources on immunizations from the CDC.

During presentation, Dr. Grinter asked Dr. Perlman what she envisioned qualifying as counseling.

Dr. Perlman stated that the way she would like this recommended to be is to be used at every appointment. She further stated that she would like Illinois to be the leader in this and envisions that this will be adopted across the country.

Dr. Grinter stated that this was a great idea, and it would be nice to coordinate with other entities to have more webinars and to continue education on this to the provider community. Dr. Simon agreed stating that this is important, and that Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) would be happy to bring some of this education into the ISDS monthly webinar series. Dr. Danny Hanna asked what other \$0 fee codes are on the fee schedule. Ms. McCutchan responded that the three Caries Risk Assessment codes are priced at \$0 and are on the fee schedule.

Dr. Hanna responded that he wasn't sure what we're looking for in having \$0 compensation codes included on the fee schedule stating that he doesn't believe providers are going to be willing to take their time to do it. Dr. Perlman elaborated more by stating her view is for educational purposes.

Dr. Simon also agreed with Dr. Hannah and mentioned that some of the data could be misleading. Dr. Grinter stated he didn't disagree, stating that even if we attach compensation on it, which is not even with the board's ability to do, we can still have inconsistent information.

Dr. VanKanegan also added if oral hygiene instructions were given, this should be in the patient chart and should be billed.

Dr. Hanna stated that dental codes that we do as part of our dental school program for our students include nutritional counseling, tobacco counseling and oral hygiene instructions. They do not bill but track it for educational purposes. Dr. VanKanegan disagreed with Dr. Hanna stating that reimbursement is \$0, but you're providing the service so should be included. Dr. Perlman also disagreed with Dr. Hanna by stating that patients are suffering because they're not getting sufficient nutritional counseling and immunization counseling.

All board members were in favor of adding the D1310 Vaccine and Counseling Code to the HFS fee schedule, except one objection by Dr. Hanna.

Dr. Jim Thommes shared the CDT updates for the year 2024.

**Code Additions** include:

D0396 3D printing of a dental surface scan  
D1301 Immunization counseling  
D2976 Band stabilization – per tooth  
D2989 Excavation of a tooth resulting in the determination of non-restorability  
D2991 Application of hydroxyapatite regeneration medicament – per tooth  
D6089 Accessing and retorquing loose implant screw – per screw  
D7284 Excisional biopsy of minor salivary glands  
D7939 Indexing for osteotomy using dynamic robotic assisted or dynamic navigation  
D9938 Fabrication of a custom removable clear plastic temporary aesthetic appliance  
D9939 Placement of a custom removable clear plastic temporary aesthetic appliance  
D9954 Fabrication and delivery of oral appliance therapy (OAT) morning repositioning device  
D9955 Oral appliance therapy (OAT) titration visit  
D9956 Administration of home sleep apnea test  
D9957 Screening for sleep related breathing disorders

There were no Code Deletions.

**Code Changes** included:

D2335 Resin-based composite – four or more surfaces (removed “or involving incisal angle”)  
D5876 added “metal substructure to acrylic full denture (per arch)”  
D9947 added “custom sleep apnea appliance fabrication and placement”  
D9948 added “adjustment of custom sleep apnea appliance”  
D9949 added “repair of custom sleep apnea appliance”  
D9953 added “reline custom sleep apnea appliance (indirect)”

Dr. VanKanegan asked Dr. Thommes if he had an update on when diagnostic codes would be covered. According to Dr. Thommes, currently no one is requiring them, and he hasn't seen any benefits that have been adjusted accordingly. The only place he has seen any interest from them is on healthcare side for a medical diagnosis, so Dr. Thommes didn't believe they would be added anytime soon.

### **Illinois Department of Public Health Update**

Dr. VanKanegan stated that IDPH is doing silver diamine fluoride (SDF) outreach. Dr. Scott is conducting a webinar on SDF that will share some Illinois data, as well as all the benefits and limitations of this therapy and arresting carries. The information will be available on IDPH's website under oral health and on the data tab.

Dr. VanKanegan further stated that DPH will be completing the Healthy Smiles assessment again this year. It was completed in 2018 and 2019 and they be doing it for

the 2023-2024 school year. They'll be assessing 120 schools this year, which is 20 more schools than the last time and there's going to be a good geographic distribution, urban, rural, low income, free, and reduced lunch, etc. IDPH is looking for partners to help screen the children in these schools. \$400 will be given for completing each school.

Dr. VanKanegan introduced Dr. Pedro Medina. He presented slides surrounding oral health access through the school based dental program using 2021 and 2022 school data. Mr. Medina stated that he had been working on this project since early December addressing geographical inequities through school based dental program mapping. He showed the map of the school-based schools across Illinois, including relevant information about providers, institution names, address website, and percentage of low income.

Dr. VanKanegan added that there are some local health departments, but no schools in the area that are involved with the program.

Dr. Grinter then asked if the CPS schools will be reflected in the data. Dr. VanKanegan responded that they could continue to work on the Chicago schools. Ann Tuscher also stated that she can assist with data from CPS.

Dr. Simon asked if this could show utilization for follow up care. Dr. VanKanegan responded that this project doesn't cover the follow-up care.

### **Illinois State Dental Society Update**

Dr. Grinter then moved to the Illinois State Dental Society updates.

Dr. Simon notified the group that Dave Marsh is now retired. Dave will continue to be involved in a consulting capacity, but his successor Lindsay Wagahoff is doing a great job.

Dr. Simon then asked Mr. Jimenez for an update on the Orthodontic auto qualifiers. Jose Jimenez responded that HFS is in the process of making updates to the tool. Federal authority is not required, but we do need to update the Rule and we're in the process of doing that. HFS will have a lot more details coming up.

Dr. Simon thanked Jose and moved to his next question, parallel billing. Dr. Simon asked for an update. Jose Jimenez responded that it's with JCAR and it's part of the Rules process. However, HFS is not removing parallel billing, but we're formalizing.

Dr. Simon then commented that the ISDS had a very robust legislative agenda this year. Dr. Simon explained their legislation initiatives - network leasing, virtual credit cards, dental loss-ratio and E prescription.

Lindsay Wagahoff followed up that she'll send out communications to everyone.

Dr. Simon also stated that anesthesia providers are still seeing a lot of limitations on the units, which are preventing these providers to do the best that they can do.

### **Possible Time Change**

Dr. Grinter stated that he heard back from all members regarding the time change. A majority of members agreed to keep the same dates/times for the DPRC meetings. No changes will be made at this time.

### **Dental School Update**

#### SIU Dental School

Dr. Kathy Shafer was unable to join, so there was no update from the Southern Illinois Dental School.

#### UIC Dental School

Dr. Hannah stated that the inclusive care clinic at UIC is still in development. They are experiencing supply chain delays and we're looking at maybe a soft opening in December. With hopefully ribbon cutting in January.

He then stated that the UIC Pilsen site is going to have a ribbon cutting on September 8th, 2023. This site provides preventive services and was formerly in the old Department of Public Health dental office.

Dr. Hanna also asked if any other members were having an issue with patients who do not want to identify their gender. He states that this was recently brought to his attention by his front desk staff. Dr. Grinter asked what the current gender selection choices are when members sign up for Medicaid services. Mr. Jose Jimenez responded that HFS will check with eligibility and get back to the committee.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Grinter asked the committee for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Ryan Tuscher made a motion to adjourn and meeting officially ended at 2:45pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 1:00pm.