

### **Dental Policy Review Committee Members Present**

Dr. Jason Grinter, Delta Dental  
Dr. Bill Simon, Illinois State Dental Society  
Dr. Jorelle Alexander, Cook County Health & Hospitals System  
Dr. Jim Thommes, DentaQuest  
Dr. Danny Hanna, University of Illinois Chicago  
Ms. Ann Tuscher, Chicago Department of Public Health

### **Dental Policy Review Committee Members Not Present**

Dr. Mona VanKanegan, Illinois Department of Public Health  
Dr. Kathy Shafer, Southern Illinois University  
Dr. Cyrus Oates, Oates Dental  
Dr. Henry Lotsof, Avesis  
Dr. Randall Markarian, Markarian Orthodontics

### **HFS Staff Present**

Christina McCutchan, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services  
Kelly Pulliam, Bureau of Professional and Ancillary Services

### **Other Interested Parties**

Dr. Trost  
Dr. DePorter  
Dr. Lamberghini  
Dr. Sweis  
Lindsay Wagahoff

### **Call to Order**

Dr. Grinter, Chair of the Dental Policy Review Committee called the meeting to order at 10:01. He explained that the purpose of this subcommittee was to discuss the dental rates.

### **Dental Rate Discussion for 01/01/2023 Rate Increase**

Dr. Grinter wanted to start with a discussion on which types of codes and gather opinions on where the allotted \$10 million for increased fees would go towards. Dr. Grinter reminded everyone that this was an open forum and asked if anyone has a strong opinion on any code.

Dr. Lamberghini asked how we're going to sustain this change in fees. Mrs. McCutchan answered that it will work exactly like the last rate increase of January 1, 2022, and as of right now they will continue every year. That could change, but as of right now it will be the same as the last increase.

Dr. Sweis was in favor of the proposed rates provided by ISDS and thinks it's a step in the right direction.

Dr. Thommes brought up at the last meeting the ISDS recommended codes would cost \$81 million and asked Mrs. McCutchan for verification. Mrs. McCutchan verified and said we'd have to trim. Dr. Thommes reminded everyone we have \$10 million in a program that spends about \$250 million. Raising the fee schedule along a couple of dollars will wipe out the \$10 million.

Dr. Grinter acknowledged we won't be able to meet these fees but wanted to get an idea of the mix of procedures that we can agree on.

Dr. Simon brought the targeted rates from ISDS were to make the program more successful and goals long term, not for the \$10 million increase. To Dr. Thommes point we're dealing with a 4% increase and none of these fees are going to fit within that budget. Dr. Grinter thanked Dr. Simon for the clarification.

Dr. Grinter asked if anyone sees a procedure that is not included that they feel very strongly about. Dr. Hanna suggested the first step should be deciding if we want to decide on a straight across the board increase. Or look at targeting some areas. Dr. Lamberghini mentioned pulpotomy and endo codes are low. Dr. Simon wanted added for the record the things he sees are policy issues and gave exclusions and limitations as examples. And policy issues effect the budget. Dr. Sweis asked for a list of the most utilized codes. Dr. Simon responded the four most utilized codes are preventative codes, and his opinion we need to consider what is impacting dental homes, the approached towards care, and the expenses that go into providing services. Dr. Grinter agreed and suggested removing the preventative codes and seeing what's left. Dr. Thommes brought up that oral surgery hasn't been discussed adding there are around one million procedures with endo, oral surgery, and restored. That's roughly \$11 per procedure. Adding \$11 on regular endo is not significant, but adding \$11 on simple extractions, surgical extractions would go a long way. That was we are getting into the services that are needed, the actual operative and surgical services that need to be performed. Dr. Simon thought that was a great suggestion. Dr. Tuscher wanted to raise awareness on preventative care, and we need to help them before we get to that point. Dr. Trost stated not increasing rates across the board is short sided, adding the last major raise for preventative was 20 years ago.

Dr. Grinter shared a preliminary list that went off the ISDS list he, Mrs. McCutchan, and Mrs. Pulliam worked on. We can make that our working list, potentially adding or removing what's emphasized. Preventative is included in the list. Dr. Grinter made it clear that the list is a starting point and no decisions have been made. The list is using utilization data, so knowing the number of procedures that have historically been performed will get us to the dollar amount we need. Dr. Grinter asked if anyone had a suggestion for the procedure codes on the list. Dr. Thommes said it's not going to make everyone happy, but it does a nice job addressing the program. Dr. Simon thought it was a very good starting point and addresses a lot of the needs across the board but needs some refinement. Not sure how productive it is to make small increases to some procedures. Adding that doing crowns is impossible with this Medicaid budget. That should be considered. Dr. Grinter agreed and acknowledged we're not there with the crown code yet but having a finite amount we'd have to eliminate something else. Dr. Lamberghini asked if there's any room for root canal. Dr. Grinter agreed and added that endo is missing from the list but asked what we're going to exchange for that. Dr. Lamberghini she's not aware of the utilization but no one is doing them and feel the teeth need to be saved especially for children. Dr. Grinter said we will look at it, and we're not coming up with final decisions today.

Dr. Simon reminded everyone that we need to make sure we use the funds. If we don't use them, we may not get potentially get them back.

Dr. Grinter asked for everyone to look at the endo codes, but we don't have to come up with a consensus. Dr. Grinter asked for any other suggestions. Dr. Simon didn't think the comprehensive exam is balanced as it should be and should be considered added to this list.

## **Adjournment**

Dr. Grinter, correspondence will be sent for the next meeting. Dr. Grinter adjourned the meeting at 10:42