



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

2008 NATIONAL DENTAL SUMMARY

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Many States have been successful in collaborating with their State Medical Associations and other providers to allow non-dentist providers to furnish oral health services, such as providing fluoride varnish, to young children. This allows the medical provider the opportunity to begin the education process for the family on the importance of dental care, and provides the child a preventive service that may help deter decay until the child receives a dental examination. While these collaborations do not substitute for a dental examination by a dentist, CMS supports these State efforts as a way to ensure that Medicaid eligible children receive oral health services to which they are entitled.

In an effort to drive greater transparency of the information that is collected on the CMS 416, CMS plans to create new ways to compile, analyze and post that information in order to better inform states and various stakeholder groups. One example of possible future postings is represented in Appendix E. This table shows State-by-State EPSDT dental service rates for FY 2006 and FY 2007.

Finally, for managed care organizations, CMS believes additional reporting of information on network sufficiency and the availability of dental providers would significantly improve information of access to covered services. We intend to make this a topic of discussion during the Town Hall Forum to seek input from other stakeholders on this proposal.

Oral Health Technical Advisory Group: An Oral Health Technical Advisory Group (OTAG) has been formed for the purpose of furthering CMS' oral health initiatives. The OTAG consists of members from State Medicaid agencies and CMS staff. Since its inception the OTAG has collaborated with CMS in the release of the Guide to Children's Dental Care in Medicaid, which can be accessed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidDentalCoverage/>. The OTAG also provided input to CMS on the revision of the CMS-416 to expand the data collected on dental services provided to Medicaid eligible children by including services provided by non-dentists. The OTAG continues to meet and work on oral health issues in collaboration with CMS.

Dental Quality Alliance: CMS is interested in forming a Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) and is currently in discussions with the American Dental Association (ADA) to begin this process. The DQA would bring together parties from many aspects of oral health fields including national dental organizations, Federal and State partners, payers and consumers to begin working together on measurements that could be used by States for purposes of improving the delivery of oral health services and the development of quality measures. These measures could ultimately be used to enhance reporting on the CMS form 416 or through state-based value based purchasing initiatives. While children eligible for Medicaid will be the primary area of concern, the DQA will also address dental services for the adult population.

CMS Website Updates: CMS strives to continually update our website to include new and important information. We intend to publish the final dental reports from each State as well as this National Dental Summary on the CMS dental webpage at