New Reports Offer Guidance for States on School-based Dental Services and Marketplace Coverage

Two new reports offer guidance for states on how to deliver essential dental services and insurance coverage to children and adults.

Dental Sealants: Proven to Prevent Tooth Decay

Dental sealants applied in school-based settings have been shown to reduce tooth decay by as much as 60 percent. The Children's Dental Health Project's (CDHP) report "Dental Sealants: Proven to Prevent Tooth Decay," funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, looks at issues impacting the delivery of state and local school-based sealant programs (SSPs) and makes recommendations for sustainability. While the report finds not all SSPs operate the same, these four main keys to success emerge:

- **Effective financing and reimbursement.** While a variety of funding approaches can support SSPs, the capacity to bill Medicaid and CHIP is crucial.
- **Strong partnerships.** Partnerships with the state Medicaid program, in addition to formalized contracts with public or private partners, are important to provide quality control and administrative support.
- **Efficiencies.** Efficiencies can be achieved by maintaining effective administrative structures to collect data and track accountability, as well as workforce efficiencies (for example, three of the most successful SSPs utilized dental hygienists under remote supervision).

Read the CDHP report

Improving Integration of Dental Health Benefits in Health Insurance Marketplaces

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ViOHC is hosting a free, two-day training for dentists who are interested in improving their skills in caring for adults with special health care need. 10.5 CERP credits available.

Contact [Katherine Libby](phone:804.269.8723) at 804.269.8723 with questions.

**FREE CE Training**

**Few spaces left**

**Dental Care Approaches for Adults with Disabilities**

[Click here to register](#)

Register by June 6

June 20-21
Lynchburg, VA
Pediatric dental services are one of the ten essential health benefits that health plans in the small group and individual markets must cover. The way dental coverage is structured in the marketplace, however, has created implementation roadblocks which make it difficult to ensure coverage for children and offer insurance to adults. The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) report "Improving Integration of Dental Health Benefits in Health Insurance Marketplaces," offers a compilation of expert suggestions for stakeholders to improve the provision of dental benefits, including:

- **Benefit design.** Evaluate, monitor and explore ways to offer pediatric dental products to consumers through marketing, insurance reforms and inclusion of adult dental benefits as an essential health benefit.
- **Affordability.** Ensure guidelines affecting tax credits, cost-sharing, out-of-pocket maximums for dental coverage and affordability provisions reduce consumer expenses, and ensure children moving from CHIP into the marketplace have affordability protections.
- **Consumer experience.** Educate those helping with exchange enrollment, monitor enrollment, and partner with other state entities to develop robust and consistent public awareness materials. In states offering stand-alone dental products, require families with children to purchase pediatric coverage.

**Visit Toast's website**

**Read the NASHP report**

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**Of Interest**

**Oral Health and Overall Health**

Oral health and overall health are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current information on how oral health is connected to overall health and well-being.

- [Low Vitamin D in Moms and Cavities in Babies](#)
- [Oral Bacteria and Heart Disease](#)
- [Chairside Screenings and Chronic Health Conditions](#)

Check out the [Institute for Public Health Innovation's](#) new resource-rich website for public health initiatives.

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**Blog Post: "Why Rural Dentistry is Important to Me"**

Dental student Kaylee Wonder grew up in a small, rural village in Thailand. In her American Student Dental Association blog post, Kaylee offers her opinion on the value of rural dentistry here in America, and why volunteer opportunities can be life-changing.
VA Study Demonstrates Fluoride’s Prevention Value

A study by the Department of Veteran’s Affairs Office of Dentistry has shown that fluoride use can be effective for preventing restorative work for patients at high risk of developing caries.

ADA Encourages Support of Student Loan Deduction Act

The American Dental Association is asking its members to support the Student Loan Interest Deduction Act of 2013 that would “help ease the burden of student loan debt by significantly increasing the deduction allowed for student loan interest and making the deduction available to all regardless of income.”

Proposed Dental School Awaits Funding

Grant funding has still not been approved toward construction of the Bluefield College School of Dental Medicine, located in Tazewell County, Virginia. The school awaits potential funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

Please visit our website for more oral health information

www.vaoralhealth.org