



2018 Board Symposium American Board of Dental Public Health

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ABDPH History

- One of the nine recognized specialties by the American Dental Association
- Incorporated and recognized as a specialty in 1950
- ABDPH became the national examining and certifying agency for the specialty in October 1951
- AAPHD is the sponsoring organization



Officers and Directors, 2017-18

- Ana Karina Mascarenhas, President
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The economics of adding a dental benefit for Medicare

- The Cost of NOT adding a dental benefit in Medicare: The physiological and QOL perspective: Hal Slavkin, DDS, Professor and Dean Emeritus, USC, former NIDCR Director
- The economic cost of adding a dental benefit in Medicare: Amber Willink, PhD, Johns Hopkins
- Economic considerations for a Medicare dental benefit : A societal view: Cassandra Yarbrough, MPP, Senior Policy Analyst, ADA Health Policy Institute

Original legislation: PUBLIC LAW 89-97-JULY 30, 1965

Section 1862(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y (a)), paragraph 12 states that *dental coverage is excluded from Medicare: “.....where such expenses are for services in connection with the care, treatment, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth or structures directly supporting teeth, except that payment may be made under part A in the case of inpatient hospital services in connection with the provision of such dental services if the individual, because of his underlying medical condition and clinical status or because of the severity of the dental procedure, requires hospitalization in connection with the provision of such services.”*

Growing support from health care advocates to...

- To remove the exclusion entirely, creating an opportunity for a universal dental benefit.
- Many groups support the inclusion of dental services for Medicare enrollees through Part B as an integral, rather than a supplemental program.

This would ensure:

1. greater stability and longevity of access than currently available through Medicaid;
2. access not guaranteed through the supplemental plans, part D or “T”
3. all Medicare beneficiaries have coverage (from health equity and insurance perspectives); and
4. reduce the administrative burden of creating a stand-alone benefit.

UnitedHealthcare by OPTUM (2013):

“total average health care costs were lower for individuals with chronic medical conditions who received periodontal treatment or cleanings within the timeframe of this study even when considering the costs of additional dental treatments...”

- Average savings for people who received care = \$1037 without Rx; \$701 when including Rx
- For medically non-compliant, the savings were greater: \$1849 not including Rx; 1706 when including Rx
- Type 2 Diabetes (T2D): savings of \$1674 (medical only); \$925 including Rx

“Among individuals newly diagnosed with T2D, periodontal intervention is associated with lower total healthcare costs (-\$1799), lower total medical costs excluding pharmacy costs (-\$1577), and lower total type 2 diabetes-related healthcare costs (-\$408)” over 2 years.

Nasseh K, Vujicic M, Glick M. The relationship between periodontal interventions and healthcare costs and utilization: Evidence from an integrated dental, medical, and pharmacy commercial claims database. Health Econ. 2016.

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Resources:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/c12757d9201/ab8cbd02-935c-4d89-b021-67f0f6bf2bfb.pdf>

Chavez EM, Calvo JM, Jones JA. Dental homes for older Americans: The Santa Fe Group Call for Removal of the Dental Exclusion in Medicare. *AJPH* 2017; 107(S1):e1-e3. doi:10.2015/AJPH.2017.303864.

Willink A, Schoen C, Davis K. Dental Care and Medicare Beneficiaries: Access Gaps, Cost Burdens, and Policy Options. *Health Affairs* 2016; 35(12):2241-48.

Slavkin HC, for the Santa Fe Group. A National Imperative. Oral Health Services in Medicare. *JADA* 2017; 148(5):281-3.

United Healthcare. Medical Dental Integration Study 2013. Available at: <http://www.uhc.com/content/dam/uhcdotcom/on/Private%20Label%20Administrators/100-12683%20Bridge2HealthStudyDentalFinal.pdf>.

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Avalere LLC. Evaluation of Cost Savings Associated with Periodontal Disease Treatment Benefit. 1/4/2016. Memo to Pacific Dental Services Foundation. [http://pdsfoundation.org/downloads/Avalere Health Estimated Impact of Medicare Periodontal Coverage.pdf](http://pdsfoundation.org/downloads/Avalere_Health_Estimated_Impact_of_Medicare_Periodontal_Coverage.pdf) Accessed 6/23/2017.