

**DENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) MEETING**  
**March 8, 2019**

**DAC Members Present via Conference Call:**

Nick Pfannenstiel, DDS, Jordan Valley, Springfield, MO  
Nicole White, DDS, Northwest Health Services, Chief

**DAC Members Absent:**

Alan Stoll, DDS, Oral Surgeon, Hannibal, MO  
Matthew Tinnel, DDS, Truman Medical Center  
Linda Wells, DDS, UMKC School of Dentistry  
Vicki Wilbers, Missouri Dental Association (MDA)  
Ron Wilkerson, DMD, St. James Dental Center

**Consultants Absent:**

Robert Waxler, DMD, Manchester, MO

**MO HealthNet Division (MHD) Staff Present:**

John Dane, DDS  
De'Nel Holliday  
Julie Phillips

**Guests Present via Conference Call:**

David Thielmier, Dentaquest  
Jill Scullion, Envolve Health Plan  
Kelly Pulliam, Liberty Dental  
Shantel Smith, MDA  
Kaitlyn O'Neal, United Healthcare

**MMAC Staff Present via Conference Call:**

Ashley Logan

**WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Pfannenstiel took roll call and welcomed all to the meeting. There were not enough committee members present for a quorum but the decision was made to proceed with the meeting to discuss current issues. Any issue that needs a committee vote will be reviewed at the next DAC meeting in May.

**REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES**

There were no changes to the December 6, 2018 meeting minutes. However, since there was not a quorum the minutes were not able to be approved at this time. The committee will vote on them at the next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Behavior Guidance (CDT code D9920)

MHD reported the fiscal impact of adding this code has not been determined. Dr. Dane has inquired with other states about coverage of this code and found that some states are covering the code, but criteria for use of the code is not clear. Dr. Pfannenstiel is in favor of adding this code but is concerned that it will be overused. David Thielmier, with Dentaquest, reported they cover this code in Illinois for children. Kelly Pulliam, with Liberty Dental, also stated that they cover this code in other states, but substantial documentation must be submitted with the claim regarding patient behavior problems and the need for intervention. Dr. Dane stated that he believes this code would be useful. Dr. White stated that she feels this is a service that is already being performed and it would be beneficial to make this a payable code. Dr. Dane stated that specific criteria of this code would need to be established. It was also suggested that the new MSDA Survey has been released and that could be a reference point to find out what other states are doing. Dr. Pfannenstiel also suggested that the ACES (Adverse Childhood Events) assessments that his clinic is implementing for all their kids could be used as a reference to determine appropriate criteria.

### Silver Diamine Fluoride (nursing home patients)/Coding

Dr. Dane stated that he would like to expand coverage of this service beyond five year-old patients. It was also reported that of the states that cover this service, Missouri's reimbursement rate is extremely low. Dr. White stated that the nursing home population really needs this service. De'Nel stated MHD can look at expanding services of this code but fiscal impact would need to be determined. Dr. Dane stated there may be some savings if the nursing home population received this service as it may save on transportation costs of nursing home patients for repeated dental office visits.

### Provider Credentialing

Dr. Dane reported that he attended a session at the oral health coalition conference where discussion was held about a centralized credentialing process for providers. It was stated that Connecticut just passed a law establishing this approach and New Jersey is able to credential providers in as little as four days through their centralized credentialing process.

David, from DentaQuest, stated that Illinois adopted the centralized credentialing process about a year and a half ago and as a result has encountered other unintended consequences. He offered to discuss those issues with Dr. Dane at a later time. Dr. Dane agreed to discuss.

Overall, the committee feels that the centralization process is the ideal way for providers. Dr. Pfannenstiel stated that there may likely be unintended consequences with the process, but the

frustration of the current system is not sustainable. Clinics are hiring new dentists and are unable to put them to work because of the delay in the current process. The current process causes a barrier and access to care issues for patients.

#### Prior Authorizations (nitrous oxide)

MHD advised the DAC that there is new workgroup that was developed as a result of the McKinsey project that includes an extensive review of all codes that currently require prior authorization (PA) across the Medicaid fee-for-service program (not just the dental program). MHD will keep the DAC informed of any changes that may come to the dental program as a result of that review.

Discussion was then held about why the managed care plans are requiring a PA for the use of nitrous oxide. Nitrous oxide is the most common dental code among the managed care plans that requires a PA. MHD fee-for-service does not require a PA for this service. Dr. Dane stated that he realizes there are providers that will abuse this code, but he also stated that the health plans could utilize their systems to monitor the usage and address the offenders.

Jill Scullion, from Envolve, stated that they have been looking at their internal requirements and have been considering removing the PA requirement from this code, monitoring the high utilizers, and performing an audit when necessary. The number of prior authorizations they receive is an administrative burden for them, so any efficiencies they can find to help streamline the process would be beneficial to all involved. She also stated that they can review their denial rate to calculate how much of a fiscal impact taking the PA restriction off may be.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Transition from DentaQuest to Liberty Dental

Dr. Pfannenstiel reported the transition from DentaQuest to Liberty Dental will be effective April 1, 2019. He also reported that he met with Kelly Pulliam, of Liberty, at his health center and he feels good about the transaction being as seamless as possible. Kelly added that Liberty Dental is excited to begin working with MHD and the DAC and they are actively reaching out to providers. She also stated their office reference manual is ready and she will email it to all of us on the call and said to let her know if there is anything they can help with.

DentaQuest stated they will continue to participate in discussions as they phase out, and because they have other lines of business in Missouri that cross over, they will still remain engaged.

##### Dental Quality Alliance Medical Quality Improvement Learning Academy (DQA MeQILA) Workgroup Meeting Discussion

De'Nel presented a brief presentation/summary of her involvement in the DQA MeQILA Workgroup Meeting she attended in Chicago. She will send the storyboard document to the committee members for their reference.

##### Additional Note

Dr. Dane advised the committee that a member of the dental hygienists group approached him and asked to be a member of the DAC. He wanted to know if this was an option. Julie stated there was a time when a search was done to obtain a dental hygienist for the committee to no avail.

Dr. Dane asked if the group had any feedback on this issue. It was agreed that Dr. Dane will send Julie the hygienist's contact information to get her resume and Julie will submit her resume to administration for review and approval of appointment to the committee.

It was noted that Dr. Thousand resigned from the committee in December, leaving a position vacant.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2019.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was dismissed.