

DENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) MEETING MINUTES
February 10, 2022

DAC Members Present:

Ron Wilkerson, DMD, St. James Dental Center (Chairman)
Nick Pfannenstiel, DDS, Jordan Valley, Springfield, MO, State Dental Consultant
Vicki Wilbers, Missouri Dental Association
Alan Krebs, DDS, Northwest Family Dental
Linda Wells, University of Missouri Kansas City

MO HealthNet Division (MHD) Staff Present:

Nanci Nikodym, Clinical Services Director
Julie Phillips, Program Coordinator
Karen Pendleton, Program Specialist
Karen Tappel, Benefit Program Senior Specialist
Kelly Connell, Quality Oversight Manager
Jenny Lockhart, Registered Nurse Specialist
Renee Riley, Constituent Services Manager
Guy Deyton, DDS, State Dental Director

Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance (MMAC) Staff Present:

Brittney Plassmeyer, Registered Nurse
Shelly Smith, Registered Nurse

Guests Present:

Dr. DePorter, National Dental Director, Envolve Health Plan
Wendy Hedrick, Envolve Health Plan
Alegna Ventura, Envolve Health Plan
David Thielemier, Dentaquest
Cannon Witt, Healthy Blue
Jessie Stevens, Home State
Kathleen Goecker, United HealthCare
Breanne Kenworthy, United HealthCare
Brady Boone, United HealthCare
Marisol Lewis, University Health Lakewood Medical Center
Aaron Washburn, DentaQuest

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Wilkerson opened the meeting. MHD announced attendees and introduced Dr. Alan Krebs as a new member to the DAC.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Wilkerson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2021 meeting. The motion received a second and all members approved.

OLD BUSINESS

STAINLESS STEEL CROWNS

Dr. Wilkerson reported that the previous issues have been resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

CDT UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL CODE CONSIDERATIONS

Julie Phillips advised a draft bulletin regarding new CDT codes for 2022 was sent to committee members prior to the start of the meeting. She and Dr. Pfannenstiel asked to discuss the new sleep apnea codes with the committee. Dr. Deyton advised that these codes would not be at the top of his list to implement; that other codes would be more beneficial. He further explained how dentists get referrals from physicians to make a mandibular device, as a result of a sleep study diagnosis. No members had interest in implementing the sleep apnea codes, therefore Dr. Pfannenstiel stated there is no need to push forward on them.

It was also noted that CDT code D3222 (partial pulpotomy for apexogenesis-permanent tooth with incomplete root development) has been added to the MHD fee schedule and a bulletin was sent out. Dr. Pfannenstiel explained the need for code D3222. The code was implemented with an effective date of 10/01/2021.

Dr. Pfannenstiel advised the committee that the 3D cone beam codes (D0364, D0365, D0366, D0367, and D0368) are under consideration for coverage by MHD. He stated requirements for coverage of these codes include an operative report or detailed narrative be submitted and reviewed by the consultant.

Discussion was held regarding the COVID-19 vaccine codes, added July 20, 2021 to the American Dental Association CDT. D1701, D1702, D1703, D1704, D1705, D1706, and D1707 are vaccine administration codes. D0604, D0605, and D0606 are diagnostic testing codes. These codes are not currently covered by MHD. The committee discussed whether these codes should be covered. Dr. Deyton stated anything to contribute to COVID-19 screening would be appropriate. Vicki Wilbers provided information to the committee about legislation under review that will allow dentists in Missouri to administer vaccinations. Dr. Deyton agrees this would be a welcome addition. MHD will continue to look at and consider if the legislation is passed.

Discussion was held regarding dental caries risk assessment codes D0601, D0602, and D0603, and whether or not they should be considered for reimbursement by MHD. Risk assessments associated with exams are being performed. Dr. Wilkerson stated he feels they are part of the exam code, and should not be reimbursed separately. He added there may be potential for abuse and over utilization, bringing additional cost to the state. Dr. Deyton agreed to the potential of abuse.

Dr. Wilkerson inquired if MHD was getting close to outcome-based reimbursement. Nanci said value-based reimbursement has been discussed, but not in the dental program yet.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

Dr. Pfannenstiel opened group discussion regarding Medicaid expansion. Dr. Deyton mentioned a focus group of stakeholders have been meeting regarding expansion. Suggestions of areas, procedures and codes have been submitted to the focus group for consideration. It was noted that additional services for adults require legislative approval. Dr. Deyton encouraged others to contribute to this process.

RATE INCREASE

Julie advised that MHD is working on recommendations to present to budget staff regarding the fiscal impact of a rate increase for all dental program services, as well as the fiscal impact of a rate increase for targeted, specific preventative, basic, and restorative services. She advised that the legislature will make the final determination in regard to what services will get a rate increase. Nanci advised the committee that MHD worked with Dr. Pfannenstiel, Dr. Deyton and Dr. John Dane for recommendations.

SEMO HOSPITAL

Dr. Wilkerson inquired if there had been any progress regarding getting help to the hospital in the Southeast. Nanci explained the difference in how hospitals were paid prior to the implementation of the outpatient simplified fee schedule that became effective in July 2021, and how hospitals are paid now that it has been implemented. Nanci also advised there were some changes underway to add units to dental codes so reimbursement would be more consistent for services provided. She stated some additional anesthesia codes were added as well. Nanci advised the committee there has been meetings with hospitals in St. Louis, KC, Springfield, and Columbia regarding the change to the outpatient simplified fee schedule, and a bulletin was sent out.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP/FUTURE MEETINGS

Julie opened discussion with the committee regarding how to make better use of DAC meetings in the future (new agenda items, adding new members, etc.). She advised the committee if they know of any one that would like to serve on the committee to send the information to Karen Pendleton and she will reach out. She advised members are required to be a MO HealthNet-enrolled provider in good standing.

ROUND TABLE

Karen Pendleton led the round table discussions from health plans, managed care, and associations for any updates.

Jessica Stevens from Home State health plan advised the committee they are focusing on the pregnant population and those who put off dental care due to the pandemic. They are working with both providers and participants when there is an issue to be resolved.

Kathleen Goecker from United Healthcare plan advised the committee they have updated their system with 2022 CDT codes and are working on reprocessing claims.

David Thielemier spoke on behalf of Healthy Blue. He stated the Missouri Coalition of Oral Health will be meeting soon and is looking forward to attending the conference in person.

Dr. Deyton with the Office of Dental Health advised his office is working with associations on community water fluoridation that will impact 85,000 people in North Central and Northeast. They have applied for two grants, one for water fluoridation in rural communities and one for water fluoridation in nursing homes. They are also getting access into schools to continue preventive services.

Vicki Wilbers with MDA, advised the areas they wanted to address were addressed throughout the meeting. She added the workforce shortage continues to be a huge issue, especially in rural areas, and asked for dentists to please complete the surveys that were sent out.

Kelly Connell, Quality Oversight Manager with MHD Managed Care, spoke on behalf of the Managed Care unit. She announced Alex Daskalakis as the new Managed Care Director and Kathryn Dinwiddie as the new Contract Compliance Manager. She also stated that Renee Riley is the manager over Constituent Services, and Jenny Lockhart and Danica Bialczyk work in the Managed Care unit as well.

Dr. Pfannenstiel inquired about the Managed Care Health Plans RFP and when new contracts would be awarded. Kelly stated the new contract will be effective July 1, 2022 and she will share more information as it becomes available.

Meeting adjourned.