



SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DENTAL MEDICAID

September 25, 2019

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Hanlon, Patricia (S), Chair
Cooperman, Kenneth (NY)
Backer, Steven (2)
Sandu, Diana (4)
Wilson, Michael (6)

Kapral, Elizabeth (8)
Rozdolski, Raquel (9)
Kanner, David (N)
Mota Martinez, Mercedes (Q)
Jacobso, Amarilis (B)

The Special Committee on Dental Medicaid met on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, via telephone conference. All members participated. Drs. Mark Feldman, executive director, and Judith Shub, assistant executive director, and Ms. Jacquie Donnelly, NYSDA staff, also participated on the call. Dr. Michele Griguts, Dental Director, Division of Medicaid and Dental Directors, Office of Health Insurance Programs, NYS Department of Health, participated as a guest of the committee.

Dr. Hanlon called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. She asked all those on the call to introduce themselves. The committee adopted the minutes from its meeting on March 18, 2019, as written.

Chair Report

Dr. Hanlon began by informing the committee members that the NYSDA House of Delegates had adopted the Council on Dental Benefits resolution calling for the committee to be established as a permanent committee of the council. She reminded the members that the committee is charged with identifying global issues, not individual, provider-specific problems.

The chair summarized the results of the survey distributed to the committee members. Several members cited specific complaints about their experiences with MCOs. Dr. Backer recommended that DOH provide the MCOs with clarification of the applicability of the "8 points of contact" policy. Dr. Griguts informed the committee that she would be meeting with representatives of the MCOs to review policy and endeavoring to get better alignment, i.e., consistency among the MCOs in implementing DOH policies.

The committee members cited difficulty reaching the MCOs when trying to get information about

patient eligibility and claims. Dr. Shub asked Dr. Griguts to recommend to the MCOs that they establish mechanisms to facilitate provider communications, given the time-sensitive nature of treatment and claim and appeal submissions.

Dr. Griguts again encouraged the members to submit complaints regarding specific situations to DOH via email at managedcarecomplaint@health.ny.gov. She requested that a copy of the complaint also be sent to her attention; Michele.Griguts@health.ny.gov. Dr. Shub asked that the members send NYSDA copies of their complaints as well (jshub@nysdental.org).

NYS DOH Report

Dr. Griguts advised the committee that DOH is looking at value-based payments and trying to establish goals and measures. She discussed current policy initiatives:

1. Developing billing guidelines for telehealth to be updated in December
2. Promoting coverage for Silver Diamine Fluoride
3. Promoting coverage of fluoride varnish or topical fluoride for patients regardless of age
4. Adding additional anesthesia codes for “mild anesthesia, i.e., nitrous oxide
5. Data project to investigate why clinics receive higher rates from MCOs than private dental offices, and are billing for more expensive clinical services
6. Quarterly meeting with the MCOs to seek greater alignment of their policies with those of DOH
7. Tracking complaints
8. Presenting to the Cerebral Palsy Association.

Dr. Backer pointed out that the fees for fluoride are the same for both stannous fluoride and fluoride varnish, even though the cost for fluoride varnish is greater. He also suggested that the program include a benefit for D1353, sealant repair, given the time limitation for replacing sealants.

New Business

The committee discussed the need for DOH to update its policy for recognizing dentists who are certified to administer anesthesia. Dr. Rozdolski advised that, because Medicaid reimbursement for anesthesia is inadequate, patients unnecessarily end up being treated in hospitals. She pointed out that private practices, unlike hospitals, are unable to negotiate higher fees with MCOs. Dr. Wilson agreed adding that it is very difficult to find dental anesthesiologists who will accept Medicaid. Dr. Griguts responded that she would raise this issue at her meeting with the MCOs.

Dr. Hanlon asked Dr. Shub to report on the Diversity Medicaid Forum. Dr. Feldman provided an update, informing the committee that the educational program would be held at NYU on March 8, 2020. The program will be presented by members of the ADA’s Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP)’s Medicaid Provider Advisory Committee.

Dr. Jacobo reported that she had received three phone calls from dentists undergoing audits by the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG). She forwarded them to NYSDA.

Dr. Kanner expressed his frustration about the lack of consistency between MCO policies. Dr. Griguts will address this issue in her meeting with the plans. Dr. Wilson suggested that dentists might

have more leverage dealing directly with the HMOs that contract with the dental plan.

Adjournment

Due to the discussion continuing beyond the scheduled hour, Dr. Hanlon adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia M. Hanlon, DMD, Chair

