



Special Committee on Dental Medicaid
November 1, 2017

OFFICIAL Minutes

Hanlon, Patricia, Chair (S)
Cooperman, Kenneth (NY)
Backer, Steven (2)
Sandu, Diana (4)
Wilson, Michael (6)
Frustino, Jennifer (8)

Blonda-Gil, Nora (9)
Kanner, David (N)
Mota Martinez, Mercedes (Q)
Jacobso, Amarilis (B)

The Special Committee on Dental Medicaid met on November 1, 2017, via telephone conference. All members participated with the exception of Drs. Blonda-Gil, Jacobso, Mota Martinez, and Sandu. Dr. James Hoddick, chairman, Council on Dental Benefit Programs, Dr. Judith Shub, NYSDA assistant executive director and Ms. Jacquie Donnelly, NYSDA staff, attended as well.

Dr. Hanlon called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. She introduced the members participating, noting Dr. Kanner replaced Dr. Fabiola Milord as the Nassau County Dental Society's representative. The committee adopted the minutes from its previous meeting on March 15, 2017, without any changes or additions.

The committee discussed business previously considered at its last meeting. Dr. Backer stated an issue with DentaQuest's written policy limiting reimbursement for examinations. He had a claim denied last year but was granted coverage after a complaint to DOH. Dr. Shub advised that DentaQuest is addressing the errors in its policy that appear to restrict reimbursement when examinations are performed by different dentists, in violation of DOH policy.

The committee discussed whether it could compile a list of common problems experienced. Ms. Donnelly informed the committee that NYSDA already maintains a log of complaints to determine common issues and patterns of abuse by third-party payers. Dr. Kanner stated that each managed care company has its own guidelines and reimbursement policies, specifically citing HealthPlex. Dr. Cooperman discussed orthodontic coverage pointing out again that HealthPlex is reimbursing for 2½ years instead of three. He acknowledged that HealthPlex had increased its monthly fees to compensate for the reduced period of coverage. Dr. Cooperman then advised the committee that HealthPlex is denying payment after the twenty-fourth month, instead of paying the full 2½ years.

Dr. Hanlon asked Dr. Shub to review how the Medicaid program is administered in New York and describe the relationships between the managed care companies.

Under “new business”, the committee discussed the use of silver diamine fluoride, now covered by the Medicaid programs in 28 states. Dr. Shub explained that DOH is currently considering coverage for this procedure. The committee members discussed whether it would support including coverage for silver diamine fluoride. The committee also discussed recommending that DOH eliminate the age restriction for D1206, fluoride varnish.

Ms. Donnelly described the current NYSDA website redesign and plans to include a specific dental benefit-related form to facilitate member complaints about third-party payers, including Medicaid. Dr. Hanlon asked for language that the components could use to publicize this member benefit once the new form is incorporated on the NYSDA website.

The chair suggested that the committee conduct a survey about Medicaid. Dr. Shub stated that Medicaid surveys NYSDA conducted in the past were not productive. She pointed out that, if the committee were to recommend to the Council on Dental Benefits that it request that NYSDA conduct a member survey, the committee would need to identify a specific purpose and goal for the survey.

Dr. Backer suggested that components form their own Medicaid committees. Only New York County and Second District now have such committees. Dr. Backer informed the committee that the Greater New York Dental Meeting is hosting its annual Medicaid symposium on November 26th.

The Committee recommends that the CDBP:

1. Support approval of silver diamine fluoride by DOH
2. Support the elimination of age restriction for D1206 by DOH (currently covered through age 6 and for individuals with exception codes 95 or 81)
3. Support development of informational paragraph to be distributed to the component dental societies, once new NYSDA website is available.

There being no further business before the committee, the chair adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Patricia M. Hanlon, DMD
Chair