

Dear Members,

There was 3 issues that I would like the membership to be aware of:

1). Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) went into effect as of October 16 this year. This requires dentist who participate in Medicaid to post notices on their websites and in their offices in the top 15 languages spoken in their state, that free foreign language assistance is available. The ADA request an extension before this took effect and asked that employers with 25 employees or less be exempt. Both request were denied. The good news is that for your Medicaid patients Washington is one of eleven states that provides translators free of charge. You will need your office to register with the Health Care Authority (HCA) under the interpreter section. For more information on Section 1557 please visit the WSDA or ADA websites.

2) Delta Dental asked a legislator to have the Health Care Authority (HCA) research the possibility of having an independent company manage Washington State's dental Medicaid system. Across the nation there have been several states that have contracted out their Medicaid system to Managed Care Organizations with sometimes poor outcomes for patients and providers. HCA has completed its second draft of its report to the legislators. If you would like to see the latest HCA report regarding MCO's in Washington please contact Emily Lovell at WSDA Headquarters.

3) This year Kitsap County Dental Society sponsored a resolution that was voted on and approved at the WSDA House Of Delegates. It is HOD resolution 14 2016.

Below is the information on that resolution:

HD-14-2016

Expansion of the ABCD Program

Background Statement. The ongoing success of the ABCD program indicates that if extended to children with special needs there would likely be an increase in their access to dental care. Patients who qualify as Developmentally Disabled (DD) are often unable to outgrow their inability to cooperate in a dental setting. This makes it challenging for DD patients to find a dental provider willing to see them, especially at such low reimbursement rates. Allowing providers to receive the ABCD reimbursement rate for this special population will encourage greater provider participation, thus increasing the number of dental providers DD patients are able to see in Washington state.

The Kitsap County Dental Society presents to the 2016 WSDA House of Delegates the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That WSDA support the expansion of the ABCD program so that children who have been identified as having medical, physical, emotional or psychological disabilities past the age of 5 should still be eligible for the ABCD program, and the providers who treat them should be eligible for ABCD reimbursement rates.

Best to all,

John L Gibbons DMD
WSAPD Public Policy Advocate