



October 2020

THREE DOMAIN APPROACH TO TRANSFORMING ORAL HEALTH CARE

DentaQuest, 120 industry leaders create new framework for oral health system

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates the nation's broken oral health care system, it has created an opportunity for the industry to move toward a new, more sustainable model centered around the patient, primary care and prevention. The DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement has released a report - based on the work of the [Community Oral Health Transformation Initiative](#) learning community - that establishes a primary care-like structure for oral health care delivery, facilitates value-based payment models and enables patients to invest in their own oral health.

120 of the industry's most prominent organizations and leaders contributed to the development of the [Three Domain Framework](#), which lays out a clear path for providers and practices to expand access to care, improve health outcomes and reduce the cost burdens associated with poor quality of life due to oral disease.

The framework gives patients and dental and medical providers the freedom to collaborate on treatment plans that work best for a given situation within the context of overall health. And it emphasizes patient and provider safety while addressing critical gaps in both patients' access to care and providers' financial viability.

"Oral health is directly linked to overall health, but our current system doesn't reflect that reality," said Dr. Sean Boynes, vice president of health improvement for the DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement. "And COVID-19 has shined a bright spotlight on this flaw. The Three Domain Framework outlines a new approach for oral health — one that focuses on prevention and healthy outcomes, facilitates value-based payment models, and will help address deep disparities in care and access. We are grateful to the many contributors who are working together to put our oral health system on a new and better path. This is the future of dentistry."

The three domains can be adopted in any order, meaning the care team can determine where to begin. Providers can safely begin shifting their models of dentistry by starting in a domain that supports their unique needs and those of their patients.

Domain One: Advancements in Teledentistry

The pandemic has increased interest in and utilization of teledentistry, but widespread adoption requires defining new treatment codes and rethinking the flow of care for a variety of dental visits. Domain One focuses on the identification, development and adoption of telehealth strategies and builds an accessible evidence-based virtual delivery approach specific to oral health that can enhance disease prevention and whole-person health.

Domain Two: Prioritization of Minimally Invasive Care

The pandemic also sparked interest in Minimally Invasive Care (MIC), as providers sought treatment methods, like sealants and silver diamine fluoride, that limit aerosols and the spread of COVID-19. MIC can reverse or slow early disease stages using a program of anticipatory guidance and collaborative decision-making with patients. Domain Two prioritizes the use of MIC for oral health management and maintenance.

Domain Three: Integration and Personalization of Oral Care Delivery

Domain Three outlines an integrated care approach personalized for each patient, using risk stratification, care coordination, specialty referrals and predictive analytics that can prolong the health of the mouth from the tissue to the bone. Poor systemic health can lead to deterioration of oral health, and poor oral health can lead to systemic health complications. This domain addresses both sides of that coin, relying on evidence-based practices to enhance a person's overall health.

Read the Three Domain Framework report, review an executive summary and watch a short video [here](#).

CHARLES COUNTY INNOVATES TO PROVIDE PREVENTIVE DENTAL CARE

Screenings, fluoride varnish provided via drive thru programs and COVID-19 test sites

The Charles County Department of Health typically provides vision, hearing, and dental screenings, fluoride varnish, and oral health education in Head Start and Judy Centers in the county, but those facilities closed in March when Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many families also postponed routine preventive care for their children, putting them significantly behind on well child visits, immunizations, and six-month dental visits. To help mitigate the risk of serious oral and overall health issues, the department developed several innovative ways to provide much-needed preventive services.

In collaboration with Head Start, WIC, and the Lions Club, a one-stop health center was set up in a Charles County Department of Health conference room. Families were able to come in for immunizations (including flu shots for adults) and height, weight, vision, hearing, and dental screenings for their children. Maryland SHIP representatives were also available to help connect families with needed programs and services. More than 60 children received dental screenings and fluoride varnish.



Celeste Camerino, DDS, MDAC Board Vice-Chair and Charles County Oral Health Program Coordinator, also developed several successful parking lot programs to address oral health needs in Charles County. With appointments and consent forms completed ahead of time, she provided fluoride varnish and oral health education to families in the health department parking lot for the Head Start Program. She also ran similar “drive thru” programs at the Judy Centers in the county, which served not only children in those programs, but also other children in the family. The county health department also distributed more than 80 oral health kits to children and adults at a one-day drive-thru child immunization clinic held at a high school, and is providing oral health education to children and adults at county flu clinics.

Charles County Department of Health dentists work at county COVID testing sites, which has provided an opportunity to talk with county residents about the importance of good oral health, especially during a pandemic. The department is also working on a program to provide senior centers with oral health kits and tips on how to maintain a healthy smile.

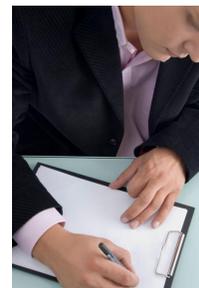
The Charles County Health Department Dental Clinic re-opened at the end of August for preventative services, and resumed full dental services in mid-October.

NEW PHASE OF PROVIDER RELIEF FUND OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications due November 6, 2020

Providers are encouraged to apply for the latest round of Provider Relief Fund (PRF) support. Applications will be considered regardless of whether your organization was previously eligible for, applied for, received, accepted, or rejected prior PRF payments. [Applications](#) are due by November 6, 2020.

For this newest phase, funding will be allocated to providers based on assessed financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by COVID-19. For more information about the Phase 3-General Distribution, please visit the [Provider Relief Fund webpage](#).



FDA ISSUES NEW RECOMMENDATIONS ON USE OF DENTAL AMALGAM

Recommends use of non-mercury fillings when possible

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is providing [new recommendations](#) and [patient information](#) about the use of dental amalgam in certain groups of people who may be at greater risk to the potential adverse health effects of mercury exposure. This includes pregnant women, nursing women and their newborns and infants, children, people with pre-existing neurological disease, people with impaired kidney function, and people with known heightened sensitivity to mercury or other components of dental amalgam.

Although the majority of evidence suggests exposure to mercury from dental amalgam does not lead to negative health effects in the general population, little to no information is known about the effect this exposure may have on members of the specific groups listed above who may be at greater risk to potential negative health effects of mercury exposure. Accordingly, the FDA recommends that non-mercury restorations (fillings) such as composite resins and glass ionomer cements be used, when possible and appropriate, in people who may be at higher risk for adverse health effects from mercury exposure.

The FDA does not recommend anyone remove or replace existing amalgam fillings in good condition unless it is considered medically necessary by a health care professional (for example, a documented hypersensitivity to the amalgam material). Removing intact amalgam fillings may result in a temporary increase in exposure of mercury vapor released during the removal process in addition to the potential loss of healthy tooth structure.

At this time, the FDA does not find the available evidence supports a complete ban of the use of dental amalgam. The weight of the existing evidence does not show that exposure to mercury from dental amalgam leads to adverse health effects in the general population, and its longevity is better than that of alternatives, especially for large restorations. In addition, a ban on amalgam may result in deferred or no treatment and have unintended health implications, especially in communities where there might be limited availability of alternative materials.

DR. DEBONY HUGHES FEATURED IN RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Works to improve access to first-class dental care for underserved populations



Maryland State Dental Director Debonny Hughes, DDS is the subject of a [feature article](#) in the September issue of the University of Richmond Magazine.

The article outlines her career path from chemistry major at the University of Richmond to her current role as Maryland's top dental official. After graduation from Howard University's School of Dentistry, Hughes spent several years in rural Vermont treating patients who could not afford dental care, an experience that sparked her fierce advocacy for the underserved. Her commitment to improving overall health through oral health led her to roles as a clinician and administrator at a dental clinic for low-income patients in Prince George's County before joining the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health.

Hughes has based her life's work on the conviction that everyone should be able to access and get first-class dental care, no matter their income, where they live, or what their special circumstances might be.

THE SUGAR IN HALLOWEEN TREATS CAN PLAY TRICKS ON YOUR TEETH

Tips to keep your smile healthy

Halloween is on the horizon and while it may look a little different this year, there are still things to consider when talking about sweets and your oral health.

The American Dental Association and Maryland Office of Oral Health suggest the following tips to help keep your smile healthy:

- **Eat sweets with meals rather than as snacks, and avoid snacking on candy between meals if possible.** Saliva production increases when you eat, helping to rinse food particles away from the mouth and neutralize plaque acid.
- **The length of time food is in your mouth plays a role in tooth decay.** Candies like taffy and caramels stick to your teeth longer than chocolate, which washes off easier with saliva or rinsing. Hard sugary candies stay in your mouth longer, giving bacteria in the mouth more time to create acid that weakens tooth enamel.
- **Research suggests that some foods are more 'tooth-friendly' than others.** If you do snack, choose tooth-friendly snacks that are healthy like fruit, nuts or cheese.
- **Brush teeth with toothpaste that has fluoride for at least two minutes twice a day, especially before going to bed.**

To protect you and your loved ones, don't forget to review the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommendations for celebrating Halloween](#) this year. Many traditional Halloween activities, such as passing out candy, can be high-risk for spreading viruses. The CDC suggests safer alternatives.

However you choose to celebrate this year, remember to be safe, and keep brushing your teeth!

DENTAL AND MEDICAL PROVIDERS NEEDED FOR STUDY

Study to investigate access for dental care for people living with HIV

Dental and medical providers are needed for a study to investigate access to dental care for people living with HIV.

WHO?

Dentists, primary care providers and infectious disease specialists practicing in Baltimore City, Prince George's County, or Montgomery County.

WHAT?

Participate in either a 90-minute virtual focus group over Zoom or a 60-minute one-on-one interview by phone. Participants will be compensated for their participation.

WHEN?

Between November 9 and 20. Exact date and time is scheduled based upon availability.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/keislersbr-mdh> or ccontact Aysha Keisler, PhD, PI, of Keisler Social & Behavioral Research at (202) 856-1054, or by email at aysha@keislersbr.com.

WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Principal Investigator (PI) listed above if you have any questions.

Please respond by Friday, November 6, 2020.

This study has been approved by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), Institutional Review Board.

"As a nation, we are at a critical moment of reflection and decision about the state of our health care system, public health infrastructure, and the social and structural drivers of health. We can do better."

-The Center on Health Equity Action for System Transformation at Families USA

NEWS

[Pathogens In The Mouth Induce Oral Cancer](#)

[New Poll Finds Americans Are Prioritizing Their Oral Health During COVID-19](#)

[CMS Issues Urgent Call to Action Following Drastic Decline in Care for Children in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Due to COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

ARTICLES

[ADA Study Finds COVID-19 Rate Among Dentists Less Than 1%](#)

[Superinfections, COVID-19 Severity, and Oral Health: Are There Connections?](#)

[Integrated Care Programs for Dually Eligible Individuals in the Era of COVID-19: Response Efforts and Policy Recommendations](#)

[Study Indicates Mouthwash Could Help Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 By Reducing Amount of Virus in Mouth, Throat](#)

[COVID-19: Can Dentistry Be Part of the Solution?](#)

[A Difficult Path to COVID-19 Recovery](#)

[Rapid Review of Aerosol Generating Procedures in Dentistry](#)

MD ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



The Maryland Adult Dental Waiver Program is off to a terrific start! According to Maryland Medicaid, from January 1, 2020 through October 27, 2020:

- 5,995 claims were submitted
- 3,401 unique members filed valid claims
- 187 members met annual \$800 cap
- 530 unique providers submitted claims
- \$961,994.73 paid year-to-date

From program launch on June 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019:

- 8,006 claims were submitted
- 4,263 unique members filed valid claims
- 295 members met annual \$800 cap
- 564 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,358,714.53 paid

[Lessons from the Pandemic: What COVID-19 Is Teaching Us About Medical-Dental Integration](#)

[Dental Interventions Improve Youth HPV Vaccination Rates to Help Prevent Oral Cancer](#)

[Manage Late Effects From HPV-Positive Oropharyngeal Cancers](#)

[Oral Health in the Global Push for Universal Health Coverage](#)

[Advancing Health, Well-Being, and Equity through Community-State Data-Sharing Partnerships](#)

[Enhancing Oral Health Avoids Infection from Ventilators](#)

[The Community Guide: Identifying Evidence-Based Approaches to Achieve Healthy People 2030 Objectives](#)

[Older Adults: Unique Challenges at the Interface Between Nutrition and Oral Health](#)

[Study Examines Impact of Orofacial Pain Characteristics](#)

[What Causes Common Types of Bad Breath Smells?](#)

[Children's Oral Health: Progress, Policy Development, And Priorities For Continued Improvement](#)

[Emergency Dental Visits Take a Bite Out of Everyone's Wallets](#)

[Cutting Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Would Hurt States in Unexpected Ways](#)

[Understanding the Dental Periodicity Schedule and Oral Exam: A Guide for Head Start Staff](#)

[Nationwide Survey of Teledentistry Regulations](#)

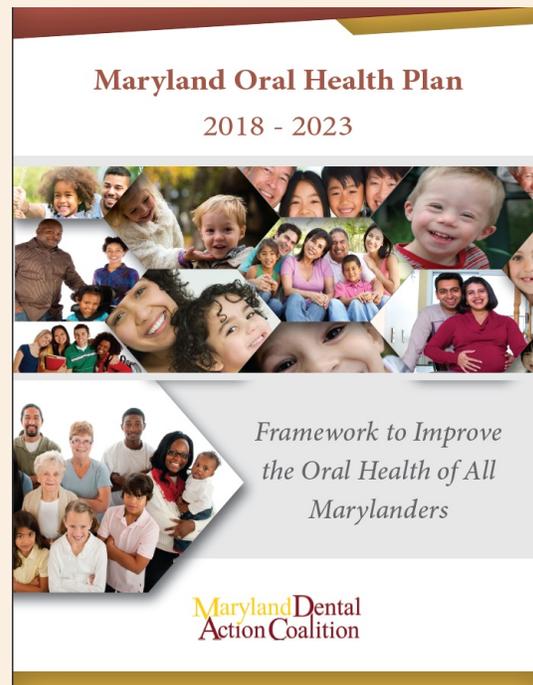
WEBINARS

[Maryland Certified Community Health Worker \(CCHW\) Certificate Renewal Application Webinar \(multiple dates - see link\)](#)

[OSAP: Respiratory Protection Program, November 6, 2020](#)

[Oral Health Value-Based Care: An](#)

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS



The 2018-2023 Maryland Oral Health Plan outlines 11 oral health goals in three key areas:

Access to oral health care:

- All Maryland children have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through public (Medicaid/MCHP) or private insurance.
- All Maryland adults have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through Medicaid or private insurance.
- All Maryland residents have a dental home.
- Strengthen the oral health safety net provider system.
- Integrate the oral health care system within the medical health care system.

Oral disease and injury prevention:

- Use data to advance optimal oral health for all Marylanders.
- Improve public awareness of oral disease and injury prevention.
- Promote community-based oral disease and injury prevention programs.

Oral health literacy and education:

- Increase understanding of the relationship between oral health and overall health, and promote good oral health practices and access to oral health care.
- Improve collaboration between oral health and other health and human services providers so that patients understand how to navigate the oral

[Introduction and Call to Action for CHCs, November 12, 2020](#)

[OSAP: PPE Optimization, November 20, 2020](#)

[Considerations for School Nurses in Return to School: Dental Screening](#)

[OSAP: COVID-19 Guidance for Dental Assistants, December 11, 2020](#)

[OSAP: Airborne Precautions and Ventilation, January 8, 2021](#)

[What's Next in the Dental Care Rebound? A Look at Testing, a Vaccine, and Financial Relief Programs \(recorded\)](#)

[Layoffs, Higher Fees, and Early Retirement: How Dentists Intend to Adjust to a "New Normal" \(recorded\)](#)

[APHA Advancing Racial Equity Webinar Series \(recorded\)](#)

[COVID-19: Optimizing Healthcare Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies \(recorded\)](#)

EVENTS

[Healthy People 2030: The Fifth Decade Of Opportunites To Promote Oral Health, November 4, 2020](#)

[Dental Trade Alliance \(DTA\) Virtual Annual Meeting, November 13, 2020](#)

[Oral Health Information Technology Virtual Convening, November 17-18, 2020](#)

health care system and establish a dental home.

- Educate medical professionals and students about the importance of the oral/systemic connection and foster collaboration between medical and dental disciplines and communities.

[DOWNLOAD THE PLAN](#)

The Maryland Oral Health Plan is financially supported by the Maryland Department of Health.

EVENTS (CONTINUED)



**11th Annual Ava Roberts
Advanced Pediatric Dentistry Seminar,
November 20, 2020**

For further information, contact
info@mdac.us.

[Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities 17th Annual Health Equity Conference, December 3, 2020](#)

[2021 OSAP Dental Infection Control Boot Camp™, January 25-28, 2021](#)

ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ORAL HEALTH POLICY

[Modernizing Public Benefit Eligibility During the Coronavirus Pandemic: Long-Term Lessons and Short-Term Recommendations](#)

Medicare

[Adding a Dental Benefit to Medicare: Addressing Oral Health Inequity Based on Disability](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCES

[Coronavirus Disease and Oral Health: Information for Parents About Promoting Good Oral Health at Home](#)

[Coronavirus Disease and Oral Health: Information for Parents About Visiting the Dental Office](#)

[ADA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Center for Dentists](#)

[De-Mystifying Data: How Medicare Data Can Support Medicaid Agencies](#)

[Using Law and Policy to Promote the Use of Oral Health Services in the United States](#)

[Resources on Health Equity in the Context of COVID-19 and Disproportionate Outcomes for Marginalized Groups](#)

[Addressing Oral Health Inequities During COVID-19 and Beyond](#)

[The Fierce Urgency of Now: Federal and State Policy Recommendations to Address Health Inequities in the Era of Covid-19](#)

[Public Policy Partners COVID-19 Resources](#)

Medicaid

[Cutting Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Would Hurt States in Unexpected Ways](#)

[Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Trends Snapshot through June 2020](#)

[COVID-19 Exacerbates Existing Oral Health Care Access Barriers for Adult Medicaid Beneficiaries](#)

[Much Ado About Medicaid](#)

[Celebrating 55 Years of Medicaid at a Time When it's Needed Most](#)

[Inequities Amplified by COVID-19: Opportunities for Medicaid to Address Health Disparities](#)

[Early State Trends Signal Massive Surge in Medicaid Enrollment Related to COVID-19](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

[U.S. Senators \(MD\)](#)

[U.S. Representatives \(MD\)](#)

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

RURAL HEALTH

[The State of Rural Health](#)

[Guidance on Providing Dental Care During the Pandemic](#)

[Approaches for Prioritizing Care in Response to COVID-19](#)

[A Guide to Dental Visits During the COVID-19 Outbreak \(video\)](#)

[What You Need to Know About Handwashing \(video\)](#)

[Caring for Your Teeth During COVID-19](#)

[Steps to Take if a Patient Reports COVID-19 Exposure After Treatment](#)

[Patient Information for Waiting Rooms in Dental Practices \(video/no sound\)](#)

[OSAP/DQP Best Practices for Infection Control in Dental Clinics During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Welcome to Teledentistry: Bringing Patient-Centered Care into the Synchronous Teledental Emergency Visit](#)

[CDC: Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#)

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Resources for Health Departments](#)

SUPPORT MDAC



Give a little to make a big impact! Your gifts, both large and small, will be used to promote good oral health behaviors, prevent oral disease and injury, and improve access to oral health care for all Marylanders, no matter where they live or what their special circumstances might be. Please help us continue this important work.

DONATE NOW!

MDAC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions to support its activities are most appreciated. Thank you.

[Rural Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[NRHA COVID-19 Resources](#)

ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[CDC Oral Health Fast Facts](#)

[Brush Up on Oral Health: Community Water Fluoridation](#)

[Brush Up on Oral Health: Healthy Bedtime Routine](#)

[Oral Health and School Readiness](#)

[Anesthesia and Sedation Used for Oral Healthcare](#)

DON'T FORGET!



**ELECTION DAY IS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3**



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Michael Ashley, DDS - Ashley Dental Care
- Nekia Neither, DDS - Special Care Dentistry

Join us! To become a MDAC member, [click here](#).

CONTACT

Do you have events or announcements you'd like to share? Contact MDAC, and we'll make every effort to include them in our next newsletter, as space permits.

[Contact MDAC](#)

JOIN

MDAC is statewide coalition of clinical care providers, governments, non-profits, academic institutions, managed care organizations, foundations and associations working collaboratively to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.

[Join MDAC](#)

www.mdac.us

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