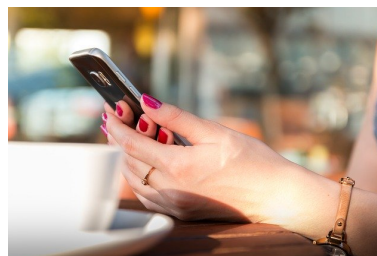


TELEDENTISTRY USE GAINS TRACTION DURING COVID-19

New report highlights opportunity to enhance dental care access

With most providers open for comprehensive dental services, telehealth has become a path to provide safe, efficient and accessible dental care during the pandemic. A [new report](#) from the DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement — based on findings from a survey of 2,767 providers — highlights the continued value of telehealth and its opportunity to provide additional revenue while enhancing dental care access for current and new patients.



Providers who experienced financial disruption and expect long-term changes to dental practice from COVID-19 were more likely to use telehealth, according to the report. For many providers, it has been a helpful tool to adapt to new and uncertain environments.

Some key findings from the report:

- 34% of providers see patients via telehealth platforms or plan to use it in the near future
- 75% of providers who use telehealth services expect telehealth encounter volume to increase or stay the same during the next 12 months
- Public health providers are more likely (44%) to use telehealth than all other practice types (21%)
- 60% of providers are using telephone calls and 42% of providers are using free virtual meeting software for telehealth encounters
- The report also includes a breakdown of teledentistry usage by type and state, financial considerations and opportunities for growth.

When the Partnership published a [similar study in June](#), many dental offices were closed or greatly restricted in the care provided. That study revealed that 27% of providers were seeing patients via telehealth and 13% planned to do so in the near future. Fast forward several months and the continued use of telehealth shows it has “staying power” in dentistry.

In other news, [learn how new safe harbors](#) proposed for the Stark Law and Anti-Kickback Statute could help providers expand their telehealth and remote patient monitoring platforms.

ADA URGES CDC TO INCLUDE DENTISTS IN COVID-19 VACCINE PLAN

Cites need to include dentists in Phase 1 access to vaccine, state vaccination planning

The ADA is asking the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to incorporate dentists into its framework for distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.

In a [November 20 letter](#) to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, ADA President Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S., M.D., and Executive Director Kathleen T. O’Loughlin, D.M.D., observed “there may be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine” once available. They also expressed concern that dentists and dental team members aren’t currently included in the agency’s outline to help states plan a vaccination response to the virus despite the fact that “dentistry is an essential health care service.”

In the letter, the ADA noted the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine’s [recent recommendation](#) that dentists and their teams be placed in Phase 1a of those who should be afforded early access to a COVID-19 vaccine.

“There is nothing routine about dental care,” wrote Drs. Klemmedson and O’Loughlin. “Beyond treating immediate pain, dentists evaluate, diagnose, prevent and treat diseases that can be life-changing or even life-threatening. For example, early detection of oral cancers and serious infections can lead to early

treatment. Delaying treatment for months, weeks, or even days can make the difference between dying early, having a life-changing abnormality and living a normal, healthy life.”

They also pointed out that dental care is essential to managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, which can exacerbate some oral health problems.

“Moreover, because dentists are trained to recognize early signs and symptoms of diabetes, they can help patients avoid serious diabetes-related complications by referring patients for medical follow-up,” Drs. Klemmedson and O’Loughlin told CDC.

“Additionally, dentists and their teams can help increase the nation’s medical surge capacity when medical personnel are overwhelmed,” ADA said. “Dentists are trained health care professionals who can administer critical vaccines to prevent life or health-threatening conditions — and protect the life and health of patients and staff at the point of care.”

SIGN ON TO FAMILIES USA LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH CARE

Urges new administration to prioritize health, take bold action to address challenges

Melissa Burroughs of Families USA asked MDAC to share the letter below with its members, partners, and stakeholders:

Dear Partners,

As leading national, state, and local organizations dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of all in our nation, now is the time for us to come together and make our shared priorities in health and health care clear to President-Elect Biden and the Presidential Transition Co-Chairs.

Please join us in pushing the new administration to commit to and prioritize swift, bold action that addresses the devastating health challenges families in America face. You can [sign on to the letter here](#) and read the [full text here](#).

The letter urges the new administration to prioritize health in its first year, and to ensure that health issues are central to the first 100 days agenda. Specifically, we urge the transition team and incoming administration to:

- Take bold and immediate action to address the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Pursue common-sense reforms that make health coverage and care affordable for all families in America;
- Bring down health care costs and transform our health care system by ending health industry abuses and prioritizing high-quality, consumer-centered health care; and,
- End racial injustice in health and health care, and ensure all individuals and families have equal opportunity to live a healthy life, free from health disparities and barriers to care because of who they are, where they live, what language they speak, or how they identify.

The deadline to sign is close of business on December 8th. Please feel free to share with your networks.

Please reach out to Melissa Burroughs (mburroughs@familiesusa.org) with any questions.

All the best,
Melissa Burroughs
Associate Director, Strategic Partnerships
Families USA

DIABETES IS RISK FACTOR FOR ORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

OOH outlines steps to keep mouth healthy and help control diabetes



The article below was submitted by the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health:

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month - and if you have diabetes, the health of your mouth matters.

Diabetes is a risk factor for developing tooth decay, gum disease and other oral health problems. High blood sugar levels lead to greater levels of sugars and acids in the mouth. A person with diabetes may experience more severe gum disease because diabetes lowers the body’s ability to resist infection and slows healing.

At the same time, gum disease can make diabetes more difficult to control. Gum disease is an infection that can make it harder to control blood sugar levels, and puts people with diabetes at increased risk for complications.

The good news is that you can take steps to help keep your mouth healthy and control your diabetes.

Tips to Keep Your Mouth Healthy

Get a dental exam at least twice a year. Your dentist or dental hygienists will be able to:

- Explain how diabetes affects your teeth and gums
- Check for and treat any problems you have with your teeth or gums
- Teach you how to check at home for swollen, red and bleeding gums - signs of gum disease
- Provide care, such as a fluoride treatment, to keep your mouth healthy
- Tell you how to treat problems, such as dry mouth

Basic Home Care Tips include:

- Brush with a soft-bristled toothbrush at least two times a day, using toothpaste with fluoride
- Floss once a day
- Limit food and drinks that are high in sugar

Don't smoke: Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) for support.

For more information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [website](#).

To learn more about efforts to combat diabetes in Maryland, read the Maryland Department of Health [Diabetes Action Plan](#).

"Diabetes impacts almost every part of the body and can result in many complications, including the increased likelihood of oral health complications... Periodontal disease is more common in people with diabetes, so people with diabetes need to be especially diligent about getting regular dental examinations."

-Maryland Department of Health Diabetes Action Plan

NEWS

[Two Spoons, a Pair of Gloves and a Family Member: Dental Health in the Time of COVID-19](#)

[WHO Revises Advice on COVID-19 and the Provision of Oral Health Services](#)

[ADA Updates Teledentistry Policy](#)

ARTICLES & RESOURCES

COVID-19

[How COVID-19 Testing Could Improve Research into Oral Care Interventions](#)

[Dentists Are Reporting a Low Rate of COVID-19: Here's Why](#)

[Managing Dental Caries Against the Backdrop of COVID-19: Approaches to Reduce Aerosol Generation](#)

[COVID-19's Effect on Dually Eligible Populations](#)

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 November 3, 2020:

- 6,186 claims were submitted
- 3,481 unique members filed valid claims
- 200 members met annual \$800 cap
- 539 unique providers submitted claims
- \$992,671.55 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

[The Impact of COVID-19 on Dual Eligible Individuals Using Home- and Community-Based Services](#)

[COVID-19: Impacts on Oral Healthcare Delivery in Dependent Older Adults](#)

[ADA Urges Congress to Pass Additional COVID-19 Relief Legislation](#)

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

Diabetes

[Managing Diabetes in Older Adults within a Dental Setting: A Practical Integrated Care Approach](#)

[The Diabetes Advocacy Alliance and Healthy People: Putting Diabetes on the National Agenda](#)

Health Equity

[Discrimination Reduces Utilization of Routine Dental Care](#)

[Differences in Preventive Care Among Rural Residents by Race and Ethnicity](#)

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

Maternal and Child Health

[Tracking State Policies to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes](#)

[Maternal Mortality and Maternity Care in the United States Compared to 10 Other Developed Countries](#)

Oral Health Policy - Medicaid

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

[Changes in Coverage And Access To Dental Care Five Years After ACA Medicaid Expansion](#)

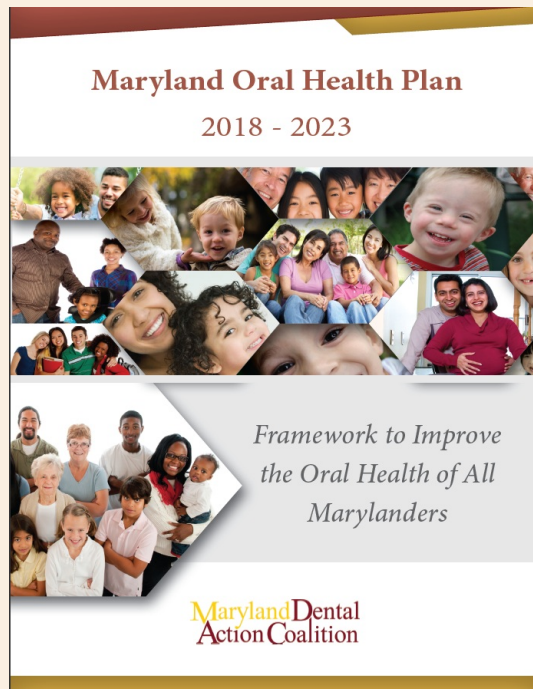
[Health Spending, Medicaid, And More](#)

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

Oral Health Policy - Medicare

[Adding a Dental Benefit to Medicare:](#)

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, oral disease and injury prevention, and oral health literacy and education.

[DOWNLOAD THE PLAN](#)

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

WEBINARS

[PPE Optimization and Respiratory Protection Program, December 4, 2020](#)

[Coronavirus Vaccine: Addressing Challenges in Distribution and Uptake, 12:00 PM December 4, 2020](#)

[The Uprising for Black Lives Series - Oral Health Policy & Advocacy: A Health Equity Case Study, December 7, 2020](#)

[School-Based Oral Health Care and](#)

[Addressing Oral Health Inequity Based on Disability](#)

Oral Disease Prevention

[Here's What Happens When You Don't Brush Your Teeth](#)

[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](#)

Rural Health

[The State of Rural Health](#)

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

[NRHA COVID-19 Resources](#)

Teledentistry

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

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

[COVID-19, December 10, 2020](#)

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

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

[HPI: The Impact of COVID-19 on the Dental Care Sector \(recorded\)](#)

EVENTS

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

[2020 National Opioid Leadership Summit Virtual Experience, December 8-9, 2020](#)

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

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.

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

FOLLOW US

