

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

Full w/pos

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
Medical Services / Roy	3-9-11

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER	001399	<input type="checkbox"/> I Prepare reply for the Director's signature	DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	cc: Mr. Heck, Bz	<input type="checkbox"/> I Prepare reply for appropriate signature	DATE DUE _____
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	DATE DUE _____

APPROVALS <small>(only when prepared for director's signature)</small>	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE <small>(Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)</small>	COMMENT
1. <i>meeting Scott Hines</i> <i>CAF Mercer/Max Dan</i> <i>Jim Mercer/Statehood</i> <i>Stroh/Dept. Personnel</i>	<i>meet</i> <i>meeting</i>		
2. <i>Par Borg</i>	<i>Par Borg</i>	<i>Par Borg</i>	<i>Par Borg</i>
3. <i>Follow-up info</i>			
4. <i>3/21/11</i>			

To Roy
3/14

CHEWNING & McDONALD
ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY, P.A.

LAWRENCE R. CHEWNING, JR., DMD

THOMAS A. McDONALD, DMD, MD



DIPLOMATES, AMERICAN BOARD OF
ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

McLEOD MEDICAL PARK EAST
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TOLL FREE 1-877-450-3604
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FELLOWS, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS

March 3, 2011

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2011

Mr. Tony Keck
Director, SC Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29202

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Keck:

Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to meet with me this morning in the office of Senator Yancey McGill. It was a pleasure to get to meet you and it is clear that you have the interest of the people of this state at heart.

I would urge that you do all you can to minimize the negative impact of the necessary budget cuts to the South Carolina Medicaid Dental Program. As we discussed, treating baseline needs such as abscessed teeth and painful teeth returns children to school, returns adults to work and ends pain and suffering. It also prevents the conditions for progressing to much worse condition requiring far more expensive care. It seems like there is opportunity for savings in limiting the frequency of service and the amount of service where applicable rather than eliminating the service entirely. I hope you will be able to get the necessary amount of service where applicable rather than eliminating the service entirely.

Specifically regarding oral and maxillofacial surgeons, I do not believe that it is fair or appropriate to deny us compensation for procedures that are routinely paid to other medical providers such as ENT or plastic and reconstructive surgeons. We have the same hospital call and responsibilities, treat the same type of cases and for them to be reimbursed and the oral surgeons not to be reimbursed because we have to file through the dental plan is not fair.

Finally, DentaQuest administration of the South Carolina Medicaid Dental Program has caused numerous hardships and complaints particularly to oral and maxillofacial surgeons due to random and inappropriate denial of claims, not having a clear set of guidelines as to what is allowed and what is not allowed and inexplicable denial of oral surgery claims. Subsequent approval of more expensive treatment from a pediatric dentist for exactly the same proposed procedure adds to the mistrust and confusion. They show a lack of fiduciary responsibility to the state and are frustrating providers to the point that many no longer want to care for Medicaid patients. This would set us back over ten years to the inadequate provider number that we had in the late 1990s. At that time, the legislature came to the Dental Association promised rate increases if we could deliver the providers and we did so. Since that time, the oral health of the state has improved and the dental Medicaid program has operated as one of the model programs for the country according to national reviews.

Again, thank you for your time this morning. It was a pleasure meeting you and I look forward to seeing you again in the future. I wish you the best of luck on what is a very difficult job.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom McDonald".

Thomas A. McDonald, DMD, MD

TAM/fig

dd: 3/3/11 / dt:

3/3/11



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Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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LAWRENCE R. CHEWNING, JR., DMD

THOMAS A. McDONALD, DMD, MD



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FELLOWS, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS

March 3, 2011

CC: Tony
BZ

Bryan G. Kost
Senior Consultant, SC Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Mr. Kost:

It was a pleasure getting to meet you this morning in the office of Senator Yancey McGill. I appreciate you and the Director taking time to listen to the concerns of two oral surgeons in the state. While we were there not officially representing any group, we do have the concerns of the oral surgeons in the state at heart.

As stated, we would urge that the budget cuts and reductions to the dental side of Medicaid be minimized as much as possible. I believe there is an opportunity for savings in limiting frequency of services particularly for adults rather than eliminating services. In the pediatric population, a similar plan could be examined and I would urge you to work with the state's pediatric dental providers to see if there are not opportunities there to continue to provide high quality dental care to the citizens of South Carolina and minimize the potential for fraud and abuse that seems to be everyone's concern. Significant rate reductions could drive the state back to the pre-2000 level of providers which was clearly inadequate. That situation is what caused the legislature to raise fees so that we could recruit and retain dental providers. I understand that things have changed since then and we have to revisit that situation but let's not dismantle a system that was one of the model dental Medicaid systems for the nation and had measurable and documented success in improving the oral health of the citizens of the state.

Also, the Department's retention of DentaQuest to manage the dental claims has caused severe frustrations particularly for the oral and maxillofacial surgeons of the state. It appears that claims are being administered with an extreme negative bias towards the oral and maxillofacial surgeons and their are documented cases. It is driving providers to the point of refusing to see Medicaid patients and again that could set us back.

The oral surgeons and dentists of this state offer front line definitive treatment for significant problems that cause children to miss school and adults to miss work. Reducing or removing those services forces those Medicaid recipients to seek treatment in more expensive outlets such as physician offices, doctor's care centers or emergency rooms. Those locations offer no ability to solve the problem and it perpetuates return visits for palliative treatment. Those visits are paid without question from the DHHS medical budget and are significantly higher than what would have been paid to solve the problem in a single visit to an oral surgeon or dental office. Let's please be wise with the state's funds and place money where real results are obtained.

Thank you again for your time this morning. It was a pleasure meeting you. Please feel free to call on me if I can be of any assistance.

Warmest regards,

Thomas A. McDonald, DMD, MD
TAM/jfg

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THOMAS A. McDONALD, DMD, MD



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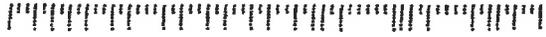
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Again, thank you for your time this morning. It was a pleasure meeting you and I look forward to seeing you again in the future. I wish you the best of luck on what is a very difficult job.

Warmest regards,

Thomas A. McDonald, DMD, MD
TAM/jfg

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