

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Medical Services/Hess</i>	DATE <i>2-8-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <div style="text-align: center;"><i>1001344</i></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> I Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <div style="text-align: center;"><i>cc: Mr. Fect</i></div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>2-17-11</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS <small>(Only when prepared for director's signature)</small>	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE <small>(Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)</small>	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

# SOUTH CAROLINA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

*Organized 1869 • A Constituent of the American Dental Association*

February 3, 2011

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

Dear Director Keck:

**RECEIVED**  
**FEB 04 2011**  
Department of Health & Human Services  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**



When the South Carolina Dental Association (SCDA) learned that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) planned to eliminate the emergency adult dental program February 1, 2011, we became alarmed. Although the SCDA realizes this is not the only proposed cut, it concerns us because this will not save the state any money, in fact, it will cost more money if this program is eliminated.

While it is true that the emergency adult dental program is optional, it serves as the primary vehicle and a basic safety net for emergency dental care among adults with low income. It has been proven that there is a direct correlation between oral health and overall health.

Stated below are three examples why this cut will not save South Carolina money:

1. Oral disease is directly related to overall health.
2. If a pregnant mom cannot access dental care, dental disease could lead to complications during pregnancy. Mounting evidence shows that periodontal (gum) disease, when left untreated during pregnancy, can lead to low birth weight babies and premature births. This will only lead to additional costs during infant care.
3. Untreated dental disease can lead to life threatening infections which require expensive hospitalization.

## See an Apples to Apples Comparison:

### Emergency Adult Dental Medicaid Program

Patient with abscessed tooth seeks treatment in a dental office.

Problem Focused Exam:	\$38.34
X-Ray	\$13.65
Extraction of Tooth	\$55.24

**Total Cost to Medicaid: \$107.23**

Result:

1-Problem is solved.

2-No further treatment necessary.

### No Emergency Adult Dental Medicaid Program

Patient with abscessed tooth seeks treatment in the emergency room.

Hospital ER Charge	\$76
X-Ray	\$102
Physician Fee	\$33
Radiologists Fee	\$25

**Total Cost to Medicaid: \$236**

Result:

1-Pain and infection medication are prescribed to treat symptoms.

2-Problem is NOT SOLVED and will likely reoccur.

3-Could result in return visits to ER.

Source: South Carolina Dental Association  
Department of Health and Human Services Fee Schedule

Source: Palmetto Health, Columbia, SC

Thank you for considering our request to keep the adult dental program in place.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Wise, SCDA President

Cc: The Honorable Hugh Leatherman  
The Honorable Dan Cooper  
The Honorable Brian White  
Mr. Richard Davis



SOUTH CAROLINA DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
120 STONEMARK LANE • COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29210

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