

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
<i>Medical Services/Hess</i>	<i>3-9-11</i>

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 100398	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Mr. Keith, Grise</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

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

SOUTH CAROLINA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Organized 1869 - A Constituent of the American Dental Association

March 8, 2011

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

Dear Director Keck:



As a member of the Medical Care Advisory Committee and on behalf of the South Carolina Dental Association (SCDA), I wanted to respond to the recent drafted bulletin dated Friday, March 4th, 2011 announcing a 3% rate reduction if the legislature lifts the proviso so fees can be reduced. After our meeting on February 9th, the SCDA felt that we could work together on a plan to benefit everyone. It concerns us greatly that the agency has already made plans to cut dentist provider rates prior to having a meeting to discuss other options.

During our meeting on February 9th, 2011, and in testimony before several legislative sub-committees you have stated that "cost needed to be driven out of the system" and "targeted cuts were preferred" rather than across the board cuts. The SCDA strongly feels that the Medicaid Dental Program has already received its fair portion of cuts.

Effective February 1, 2011, the emergency adult program was eliminated. That cut an estimated \$3.5 million in this fiscal year from the dental program line. While it is true that the emergency adult dental program was optional, it served as the primary vehicle and a basic safety net for emergency dental care among adults with low income. This elimination has only shifted costs to other medical line items.

Since DentaQuest has taken over the administration of the dental program in August 2010, DHHS has estimated that there has been between a 9% and 14% cut from the program in this fiscal year. This does not include the estimated savings from the elimination of the adult program.

Additionally, no provider rate increases have occurred for dentists since 2000, while other provider groups have seen increases. Furthermore, if you plan a 3% provider rate cut, why are some groups held harmless like Hospice and Federally Qualified Health Centers?

In next year's budget the elimination of the adult dental program will save approximately \$14 million or 11.2% of the total dental line item. Additionally we will see savings realized over an entire year from DentaQuest. This seems to meet the need to reduce the dental line by at least 10%. Because of the high overhead to operate a dental practice and the erosion of fees due to inflation over the last 11 years, dentists will face the choice of losing money each time they see a Medicaid patient or reducing or eliminating Medicaid patients from their practice. If a 3% reduction occurs for the remainder of this year it will affect access to dental care and the significant strides this state has made in oral health over the last 11 years.

The SCDA realizes that this is a critical time in our State and some tough decisions have to be made. Additional reductions on top of the ones that have already occurred as outlined above are not the answer. We need changes that will be beneficial to the State, to the dentists and to the citizens who desperately seek and need the care from our dentist providers.

The SCDA is proud of our history of working with the Department of Health and Human Services to improve the dental Medicaid program and we look forward to future meetings to continue the dialog.

Sincerely,

Dr. James E. Mercer
SCDA Legislative Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mercer", is written over the typed name and title of Dr. James E. Mercer.

MAR 09 2011

RECEIVED

Cc: Dr. Ed Wise, SCDA President
Mr. Richard Davis, SCDA Lobbyist

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



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

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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

29202+8206



UNITED STATES POSTAGE
FITNEY BOWES
\$ 00.44⁰
02 1M MAR 08 2011 0004275344
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 29210

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

File 1258
in 1258

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
Medical Services; Roy	3-9-11

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER	101398	<input type="checkbox"/> I prepare reply for the Director's signature	DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	cc: Mr. Tuck, Bz	<input type="checkbox"/> I prepare reply for appropriate signature	DATE DUE _____
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	DATE DUE _____

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			Stankovic Mrs
2.	BZ -		
3.	up with	lots of	
4.	part of a good		

TB BZ 3/14

SOUTH CAROLINA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

Organized 1869 - A Constituent of the American Dental Association

March 8, 2011

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



Dear Director Keck:

As a member of the Medical Care Advisory Committee and on behalf of the South Carolina Dental Association (SCDA), I wanted to respond to the recent drafted bulletin dated Friday, March 4th, 2011 announcing a 3% rate reduction if the legislature lifts the proviso so fees can be reduced. After our meeting on February 9th, the SCDA felt that we could work together on a plan to benefit everyone. It concerns us greatly that the agency has already made plans to cut dentist provider rates prior to having a meeting to discuss other options.

During our meeting on February 9th, 2011, and in testimony before several legislative sub-committees you have stated that "cost needed to be driven out of the system" and "targeted cuts were preferred" rather than across the board cuts. The SCDA strongly feels that the Medicaid Dental Program has already received its fair portion of cuts.

Effective February 1, 2011, the emergency adult program was eliminated. That cut an estimated \$3.5 million in this fiscal year from the dental program line. While it is true that the emergency adult dental program was optional, it served as the primary vehicle and a basic safety net for emergency dental care among adults with low income. This elimination has only shifted costs to other medical line items.

Since DentaQuest has taken over the administration of the dental program in August 2010, DHHS has estimated that there has been between a 9% and 14% cut from the program in this fiscal year. This does not include the estimated savings from the elimination of the adult program.

Additionally, no provider rate increases have occurred for dentists since 2000, while other provider groups have seen increases. Furthermore, if you plan a 3% provider rate cut, why are some groups held harmless like Hospice and Federally Qualified Health Centers?

In next year's budget the elimination of the adult dental program will save approximately \$14 million or 1.1-2% of the total dental line item. Additionally we will see savings realized over an entire year from DentaQuest. This seems to meet the need to reduce the dental line by at least 10%. Because of the high overhead to operate a dental practice and the erosion of fees due to inflation over the last 11 years, dentists will face the choice of losing money each time they see a Medicaid patient or reducing or eliminating Medicaid patients from their practice. If a 3% reduction occurs for the remainder of this year it will affect access to dental care and the significant strides this state has made in oral health over the last 11 years.

The SCDA realizes that this is a critical time in our State and some tough decisions have to be made. Additional reductions on top of the ones that have already occurred as outlined above are not the answer. We need changes that will be beneficial to the State, to the dentists and to the citizens who desperately seek and need the care from our dentist providers.

The SCDA is proud of our history of working with the Department of Health and Human Services to improve the dental Medicaid program and we look forward to future meetings to continue the dialog.

Sincerely,


Dr. James E. Mercer
SCDA Legislative Chair

RECEIVED

MAR 09 2011

Cc: Dr. Ed Wise, SCDA President
Mr. Richard Davis, SCDA Lobbyist

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



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

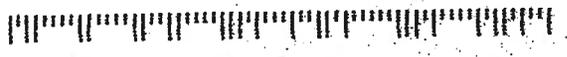
RECEIVED

MAR 09 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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

29202+8206



UNITED STATES POSTAGE
PTINER BOWEN
\$ 00.44⁰
02 1M
0004275344 MAR08 2011
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 29210

