

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
<i>Assoc Medical Services</i>	<i>2/11/11</i>

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>1011348</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>2/18/11</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>As Mr. Beck</i> <i>Checked 3/3/11, & then attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input 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.			

Thad T. Viers
District No. 68 – Horry County
P.O. Box 31231
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

Committees:
Judiciary

Sub-Committees:
I-73 Study Committee
Special Laws, Chairman



327-B Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201
Tel. (803) 734-3064

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

RECEIVED

FEB 11 2011

February 9, 2011

Dr. Thomas F. Rollar, Jr., DMD
630 Singleton Ridge Road
Conway, SC 29526

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Dr. Rollar,

Thank you very much for your letter concerning the cut of emergency adult dental services via the Medicaid system. I understand both your concerns and the correlation between one's oral health and overall health. Therefore, I am forwarding your letter to Anthony E. Keck, the new Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, to raise his awareness of the concerns of you and the other Oral Surgeons in my District.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

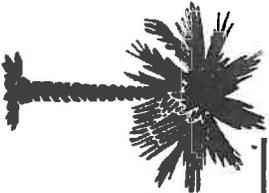
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thad T. Viers", written over a horizontal line.

Thad T. Viers

TTV/bhm

Cc: Anthony E. Keck, Director, Department of Health and Human Services



THOMAS F. ROLLAR, JR., DMD

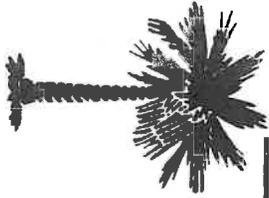
630 Singleton Ridge Road
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: (843) 347-2900
Fax: (843) 347-2906

The Honorable Mr. Viers,

As an Oral Surgeon practicing out of Conway, South Carolina, I am one of a number of practitioners in this area concerned about the absolute cut of adult dental services via the medical system. Only someone with their head under a rock wouldn't see that social programs in this and every state will have to be cut due to the economic climate of the entire country and, obviously, some of those cuts will be painful. As many of my peers have shown and supplied you with the information, cutting emergency services for adults and thrusting to them into the emergency room setting solves nothing, creates larger bills and provides worse care for the individuals, putting their lives in jeopardy. While something clearly needs to be done, cutting services entirely is simply not the answer and, although not privy to the numbers, I would have to believe overall costs since DentaQuest has taken over have to be reduced.

My purpose is to tell you what will happen in this area, as obviously I have discussed this with the four other Oral Surgeons who cover Little River to McClellanville and over to Florence. Adults who have toothaches will be turned away unless they can pay the full amount for services; payment plans will not be offered as if they do not have money when they are in pain then they will never have it. These patients, who will be referred from General Dentists who, if you know anything about dentistry, will be told to come to us because 'they need an oral surgeon' when in reality it is because they don't have money, will be turned away from our practices. These patients will filter to the ERs and get prescriptions and get sent back to whichever of us is on call for the hospital, but unless they are swollen when they arrive to see us the same thing will happen and they will be turned away. Ultimately, unless they come up with the money, we will have to wait until these patients develop full blown abscesses and need to be hospitalized and we are called to see them. Should this become a common occurrence then we will be forced to drop off call at the hospitals, and we cover all the hospitals here; we cannot run our practices successfully and have to be constantly running to the hospital to be treating patients we aren't reimbursed for. The ripple effect from that is the trauma we cover at the hospital (facial fractures, lacerations, teeth knocked out, etc.) will go untreated and have to be shipped to Charleston as no one here will be on staff that can do the procedure. This, obviously, is what no one wants.

I can speak for every practitioner in the state that the primary focus of our office is to provide excellent and safe care to all people and that financial motivations aren't the driving force in our practice; still, financial concerns exist for us like they do for you. Everyone wants to have a system that works as best it can to provide care for the less fortunate in the state and that is a difficult job; be aware that asking the Oral Surgeons of the state to be expected to provide this care for free is not a realistic option, no more so then asking these patients to pay. As I on a daily basis see the massive amounts wasted on dental care for children - which is not cut at all - and read that chiropractic care is still in effect I wonder who has made these short sighted decisions and implore you and your colleagues to strive for a better solution. I understand cuts to fees cannot be made because of the current legislative structure but this needs to be addressed; other options would placing an individual cap of number of teeth or amount of money that each recipient can receive, all administrative nightmares but this would still provide the emergency care so badly needed. A solution must be found before someone slips thru the cracks and a life is lost like happened in Maryland just a few short years ago.



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If I can do anything to help please do not hesitate to contact me, I assure you that the Oral Surgeons of this state will and want to work with you to solve this crisis, but please be aware that asking us to work for free on the indigent for the state will create massive problems.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Rollar, Jr., DMD

630 Singleton Ridge Road

Conway, South Carolina 29526

trollar@aol.com

January 4, 2011

Ms. Emma Forkner
Director, Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Director Forkner:

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.

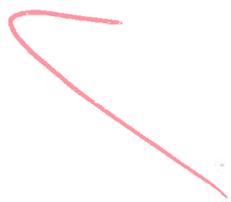
Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Wise, SCDA President

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

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

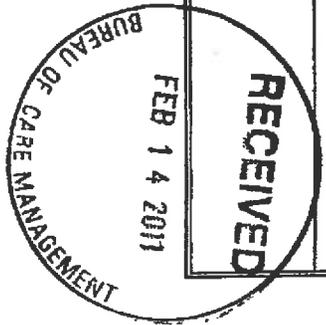
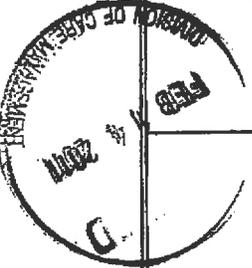
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1. <i>Shirley Carrigy Dept. Head. Dental Services</i>	<i>[Signature]</i> <i>2/11/11</i>		
2. <i>Roy E. Hess Division Director Care Management</i>	<i>[Signature]</i> <i>Feb 11 11</i>		
3.			
4.			



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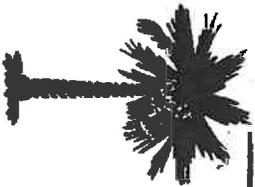
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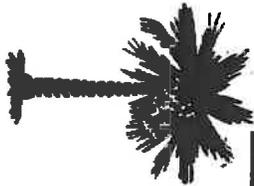
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trollar@aol.com

January 4, 2011

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Director, Department of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8208
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

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

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



March 3, 2011

Thomas F. Rollar, Jr., DMD
630 Singleton Ridge Road
Conway, South Carolina 29526

Dear Dr. Rollar,

Thank you for your letter regarding the elimination of adult dental services effective February 1, 2011. I appreciate your concerns and value your input about the potential impact of eliminating this service.

The decision to eliminate this and other Medicaid services was difficult. The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) projects a significant budget shortfall during the current fiscal year. This is a result of a combination of enrollment increases and budget reductions. In order to safeguard the financial viability of the program and protect core mandatory coverage, SCDHHS is forced to make reductions to many services defined as optional under Medicaid rules. Current state and federal restrictions largely limit the agency's ability to make other reductions apart from optional services, which includes the adult dental program.

Partly as a result of input from the dental community, the agency has highlighted exceptions to the elimination of adult dental services. These are outlined in a bulletin from January 31, 2011, which is attached. We will continue to monitor the effect of this service reduction and will make adjustments if necessary.

If you have any additional questions regarding the dental program, please feel free to contact Shirley Carrington, Department Head of Dental Services at (803) 898-2563. I appreciate your continued support of the South Carolina Medicaid program.

Sincerely,



Anthony E. Keck
Director

REH/mac

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Thad T. Viers, House of Representatives
State of South Carolina

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206
www.scdhhs.gov

January 31, 2011

Dent

MEDICAID BULLETIN

TO: Providers Indicated

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Coverage for Adult Dental Services

In a Medicaid Bulletin dated December 14, 2010, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) communicated upcoming reductions to adult dental services. The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify policy changes to these reductions. Effective with dates of service on and after February 1, 2011, SCDHHS will discontinue coverage of adult dental services except when the following medical reasons are documented.

- I. Exceptions to Reductions
Dental procedures listed in Exhibit B of the DentaQuest Office Reference Manual (ORM) performed for the following medical reasons will be considered for payment:
 - Organ Transplants
 - Oncology
 - Radiation of the head and/or neck for cancer treatment
 - Chemotherapy for cancer treatment
 - Total Joint Replacement
 - Heart Valve Replacement
 - Trauma Treatment
- II. Criteria for Coverage of Service Exceptions
 - Covered services are limited to dental procedures required for the treatment of the service exceptions listed above.
 - The treating medical specialist must request the dental procedure(s) to be performed.
 - The dental provider must determine medical necessity for the course of treatment for the requested procedure(s).
 - Trauma treatment is limited to procedures performed in a hospital or similar setting, such as an ambulatory surgical center or emergency care unit.
- III. Criteria for Claims Submission
 - All claims submitted for the treatment of the exceptions listed above will be reviewed by DentaQuest prior to payment. A Prior Authorization is not required for these procedures.

- Appropriate documentation from the treating medical specialist indicating treatment for one or more of the exceptions listed above must be submitted with the claim.
- Appropriate documentation from the dental provider regarding medical necessity for the dental procedure(s) must be submitted with the claim. The DentaQuest Office Reference Manual (ORM) identifies the required documentation for each procedure code.
- Claims for the treatment of the exceptions listed above must contain the words "**Medical Condition**" in the notes field on the ADA claim form (field #35) or the CMS 1500 claim form (field #19).

Adult beneficiaries enrolled in the Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities (MR/RD) waiver are not affected by any of these reductions. Additionally, any outstanding Prior Authorizations for a beneficiary will expire on April 29, 2011.

Your continued support of the South Carolina Medicaid Program is appreciated. Please refer any questions or concerns regarding this bulletin to the SCDHHS Dental Services Staff at (803) 898-2568.

/s/
Anthony E. Keck
Director

AEK/hhc

NOTE: To receive Medicaid bulletins by email, please register at <http://bulletin.scdhhs.gov/>. To sign up for Electronic funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to: <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/1/paa/index.asp> and select "Electronic funds Transfer (EFT)" for instructions.