



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Medical Assistance Services*

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DIRECTOR

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Janet D. Howell  
Chairman, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Luke E. Torian  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

Daniel Timberlake  
Director, Department of Planning and Budget

FROM: Karen Kimsey  
Director, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

SUBJECT: Monthly Report on December Medicaid Expenditures due February 20, 2021

This report is submitted in compliance with Item 313.III.1. of the 2020 Appropriation Act, which states:

*"Effective January 1, 2021, the Department of Medical Assistance Services shall have the authority to amend the State Plan of Medical Assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a comprehensive dental benefit to adults. The department shall work with its Dental Advisory Committee, including members of the Virginia Dental Association, the Virginia Health Catalyst, the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, the Virginia Dental Hygienists Association, the Virginia Health Care Association, a representative of the developmental and intellectual disability community, the Virginia Department of Health and the administrator of the Smiles for Children program to develop the benefit. The benefit shall be modeled after the existing benefit for pregnant women. The benefit shall include preventive and restorative services and shall not include any cosmetic services or orthodontic services. The Dental Advisory Committee shall design a benefit that does not exceed the appropriated funds to provide such services. The department shall work with its dental benefit administrator, the Virginia Dental Association, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, the Virginia Community Healthcare Association and other stakeholders to ensure an adequate network of providers and awareness among beneficiaries. The department shall report to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees on the benefit design and plans for the implementation of the benefit by November 1, 2020. The department shall have authority to promulgate emergency regulations to implement these changes within 280 days or less from the enactment date of this act."*

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (804) 786-8099.

KEK/  
Enclosure

pc: The Honorable Daniel Carey, M.D., Secretary of Health and Human Resources

# Report on Implementation of Adult Dental Benefits in Medicaid

A Report to the Virginia General Assembly

April 1, 2021

## Report Mandate:

313.IIIII.1. Effective July 1, 2021, the Department of Medical Assistance Services shall have the authority to amend the State Plan of Medical Assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a comprehensive dental benefit to adults. The department shall work with its Dental Advisory Committee, including members of the Virginia Dental Association, the Virginia Health Catalyst, the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, the Virginia Dental Hygienists Association, the Virginia Health Care Association, a representative of the developmental and intellectual disability community, the Virginia Department of Health and the administrator of the Smiles for Children program to develop the benefit. The benefit shall be modeled after the existing benefit for pregnant women. The benefit shall include preventive and restorative services and shall not include any cosmetic services or orthodontic services. The Dental Advisory Committee shall design a benefit that does not exceed the appropriated funds to provide such services. The department shall work with its dental benefit administrator, the Virginia Dental Association, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, the Virginia Community Healthcare Association and other stakeholders to ensure an adequate network of providers and awareness among beneficiaries. The department shall report to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees on the benefit design and plans for the implementation of the benefit by November 1, 2020. The department shall have authority to promulgate emergency regulations to implement these changes within 280 days or less from the enactment date of this act.

## BACKGROUND

The 2020 General Assembly approved budget language (HB5005 Item 482.20 #5c) to support the implementation of a comprehensive Medicaid adult dental benefit. However, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, funds to support the adult dental initiative were unallocated in April 2020. Funds for adult dental services were reallocated in the September 2020 Special Session of the General Session. DMAS is actively working on the implementation, with services to begin July 1, 2021.

## About DMAS and Medicaid

***DMAS's mission is to improve the health and well-being of Virginians through access to high-quality health care coverage.***

DMAS administers Virginia's Medicaid and CHIP programs for more than 1.6 million Virginians. Members have access to primary and specialty health services, inpatient care, behavioral health as well as addiction and recovery treatment services. In addition, Medicaid long-term services and supports enable thousands of Virginians to remain in their homes or to access residential and nursing home care.

Medicaid members historically have included children, pregnant women, parents and caretakers, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. In 2019, Virginia expanded the Medicaid eligibility rules to make health care coverage available to more than 400,000 newly eligible, low-income adults.

Medicaid and CHIP (known in Virginia as Family Access to Medical Insurance Security, or FAMIS) are jointly funded by Virginia and the federal government under Title XIX and Title XXI of the Social Security Act. Virginia generally receives a dollar-for-dollar federal spending match in the Medicaid program. Medicaid expansion qualifies the Commonwealth for a federal funding match of no less than 90 percent for newly eligible adults, generating cost savings that benefit the overall state budget.

## **IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS**

### **DAC Organization Expansion**

DMAS has added new organizational representation to the Dental Advisory Committee (DAC) membership as outlined in the budget amendment and now includes: the Virginia Dental Hygiene Association, the Virginia Health Care Association, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, and a representative for the intellectually and developmentally disabled (ID/DD) populations. The DAC has met and discussed Adult dental services and program on May 15, 2020, August 21, 2020, November 20, 2020, and January 13, 2021. DMAS will have monthly DAC meetings until fall of 2021. DMAS also engaged the members of the Old Dominion Dental Society in the creation of the adult dental benefit.

### **Benefit design**

DMAS, with the assistance of a subgroup of DAC members, designed an adult benefit package. As this population may not have seen a dentist for several years, the subgroup established a benefit to promote healthy gums and the development of dentist/patient relationship as the priority in the first two years of the program. Therefore, this adult benefit coverage focuses on preventive services and overall oral health services, ones that are needed to build a healthy oral cavity and ones that prepare the mouth and teeth for any specialty procedures. While the package differs from the one originally provided to pregnant women, the services are comprehensive, including diagnostic, preventive, restorative, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, and oral and maxillofacial surgery. The coverage does not include orthodontia and bridges. The coverage design was approved by DMAS and the DAC during the January 13, 2021 meeting.

### **Network Adequacy**

While the Department is only able to estimate utilization based on other states' histories, ensuring an adequate provider network to accommodate members seeking services under the new benefit is of utmost importance to DMAS. The dental benefits administrator (DBA), DentaQuest, is examining the current provider network to ensure network adequacy to serve adult members. DMAS also examined provider network data for calendar years 2018 and 2019. DMAS consulted with the Health Policy Institute (HPI) of the American Dental Association, regarding the budget estimate for the new services and the network adequacy for the adult dental coverage. HPI reviewed the dental network and affirmed that the network is adequate to deliver services to adults. However, HPI did not take into account the expansion population nor the maintenance of effort (MOE) eligibility during the COVID19 pandemic that has increased enrollment. DMAS identified an increased need, particularly related to specialists such as endodontists and periodontists that DMAS is working on in conjunction with DentaQuest and experienced consultants to address. DMAS will be reviewing the dental network monthly to ensure adequacy.

Members of the DAC have also been engaged to promote the new benefit, inviting DMAS staff to speak at component meetings of the Virginia Dental Association, and at meetings of the Old Dominion Dental Society. DMAS and DentaQuest are engaging the Federally Qualified Health Centers and free clinics to provide adult dental services. The Virginia Network of Private Providers engaged DMAS to survey their organizations regarding services for the ID/DD and nursing home populations.

## **Implementation**

DMAS is seeking federal authority by amending its state plan. The Department has modified its DBA contract to deliver these adult services. DMAS established implementation teams that will handle project management, stakeholder engagement, communication and network development. Additionally, DMAS formed two workgroups

within the DAC to provide guidance in the clinical aspects of the new benefit services, and to assist in developing communication and marketing strategies to inform members and providers of the new benefit.

### **SUMMARY**

DMAS continues to work to implement the adult dental benefit and will be ready to implement these critical health services on July 1, 2021.