

February 22, 2023

Natalia Chalmers, DDS, MHSc, PhD
Chief Dental Officer
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Re: Oversight of Medicaid Managed Care Plans' Reporting of Medical Loss Ratios

Dear Dr. Chalmers:

On behalf of our 159,000 members, the American Dental Association (ADA) is writing to urge the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to exercise its oversight abilities as they pertain to Medicaid managed care plans' reporting of medical loss ratios (MLR). The ADA greatly supports transparency with public dollars, especially in Medicaid, and views MLR reporting as an important part of that transparency.

In January 2022, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) published an issue brief, [Medical Loss Ratios in Medicaid Managed Care](#), in which they detail the implementation of MLR requirements within Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) and state that "*MLR requirements went into effect in 2019, and data on plan and state experience with them is expected to be available in 2022.*" In September 2022, the Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a [report](#) reviewing 495 annual MLR reports that it obtained from states for completeness, to see if these reports contained the seven required data elements: claims costs; non-claims costs; quality-improvement expenses; premium revenue; taxes and fees; calculated MLR; and member months. Close to half (49%) of the MLR reports submitted by MCOs in 28 states were incomplete and missing at least 1 of the 7 required data elements, thus allowing the reporting requirement to become optional.

The OIG report made a number of recommendations that the ADA agrees with, however, it did not identify the MCOs that submitted the incomplete MLR reports or the states that did not address the reporting gaps. The ADA encourages the OIG to publish this information, which could further encourage the MCOs and states to meet the requirements. Furthermore, the ADA encourages CMS to publish in a timely manner a state-by-state assessment of MCOs with the percentage of allocated Medicaid funding that is being spent on dental services and asks that CMS require each state Medicaid agency to monitor the specific dental loss ratio among their contractors. Because Medicaid is a critical access point for dental care to millions of enrollees, tracking the correct data is just as important to ensure Medicaid enrollees are getting the dental care they need going forward.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can meet these challenges. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. David Linn at 202-789-5170 or linnd@ada.org.

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Sincerely,

George R. Shepley, D.D.S.
President

Raymond A. Cohlma, D.D.S.
Executive Director

GRS:RAC:dl