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**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ON DENTAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS
ADA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, CHICAGO
November 2-3, 2023**

Call to Order: The meeting of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs (CDBP) was called to order by Dr. Stacey Gardner, chair, on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., in the Boardroom, ADA Headquarters, Chicago, IL.

Roll Call: Drs. Stacey Gardner (*chair*), Mark A. Moats (*vice chair*), Alyson K. Buchalter, Drs. Adrian J. Carrington, Lindsay Compton, Paula Crum, Andrew Gazerro, III, Hadi Ghazzouli, Drs. Bertram Hughes, Susan D. Jolliff, Stephen A. Morgan, Shelley Barker Olson, Drs. Vishruti Patel (*via Zoom*), Eddie Ramirez, Sara E. Stuefen, Scott Trapp, David L. Vorherr, Drs. Frank J. Graham (*Trustee*), Sara Ehsani (*New Dentist Member*), and Ms. Mikaela Gisch (*ASDA Consultant*) (not present)

Practice Institute (PI) Staff in attendance (for all or part of the meeting): Drs. Krishna Aravamudhan, Jane Grover, and Neel Shimpji; Ms. Afton Dunsmoor, Ms. Rebekah Fiehn, Mr. Dennis McHugh, Ms. Barb Ferriter, Ms. Ann Danca, and Ms. Stacy Starnes; **Attending via Zoom:** Dr. Hana Alberti, Mr. Paul Bralower, Ms. Erica Colangelo, Mr. Carlos Jones, Ms. Lauren Kirk, Mr. Sean Layman, and Ms. Sharon Stanford

Association Staff in attendance (for all or part of the meeting): Dr. Raymond A. Cohlmiya and Mr. Mike Kendall; **Attending via Zoom:** Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, Mr. Robert Burns, Mr. Paul O'Connor, and Mr. Chris Tampio

Guests Present for Portions of the Meeting: Dr. Linda J. Edgar, ADA President and Dr. Brett H. Kessler, ADA President-elect; **Attending via Zoom:** Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services - Drs. Natalia I. Chalmers, chief dental officer, and Carla Shoff, senior advisor to the chief dental officer; Dr. Leigh Kent, chair, Council on Government Affairs (CGA); Dr. Jeffrey Ottley, chair, Council on Dental Practice (CDP)

Following the roll call, the presence of a quorum was noted.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement: Dr. Gardner referenced the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Statement included on the agenda and called for disclosures of potential conflicts of interest. None were received.

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Gardner made a call for any changes; none were received. The Council adopted the agenda by general consent, giving the Chair permission to reorder items as needed.

Approval of Consent Items: A consent calendar was prepared to expedite the business of the Council. Members were given the opportunity to remove any item from the consent calendar for consideration during the meeting. Two reports were removed from the consent calendar—SNODENT and Council Meeting Dates.

The Council adopted the following resolution:

- Resolved**, that the resolutions contained within the following reports be approved by consent.
- Approval of e-ballot Action Items
 - CDT Licenses and Fee Adjustments

- 1 • Appointment of Consultants

2 **Resolved**, that the following reports be filed.

- 3 • 2023 Practice Institute Operating Plan Update
- 4 • Clinical Data Registry Update
- 5 • Bento
- 6 • Third Party Payer Concierge™
- 7 • ADA CDT 2025 Action Requests
- 8 • ASDA Consultant Report
- 9 • 2023-2024 Subcommittee Appointments
- 10 • 2023-2024 Subcommittee & Major Meeting Dates

11 **Approval of e-ballot Action Items:** The Council adopted the following resolution through the
12 consent calendar.

13 **Resolved**, that the actions approved through e-ballots since the May 2023 Council meeting
14 be recorded in the minutes from this meeting.

15 E-ballot 2023-03: **Resolved**, that the 2023 May CDBP Meeting Minutes be approved.

16 E-ballot 2023-04: **Resolved**, that the 2023 August CDBP Special Meeting Minutes be
17 approved.

18 E-ballot 2023-05: **Resolved**, that the 2023 September CDBP Special Meeting
19 Minutes be approved.

20 **ADA Professional Conduct Policy:** Ms. Albrecht, senior associate general counsel, Legal Affairs,
21 enlightened the Council about the Professional Conduct Policy as presented in the Agenda Book.
22 Members were encouraged to read it and revisit the policy. Ms. Albrecht explained the purpose and
23 importance of such policy, informing the Council that it is to ensure that the ADA remains compliant
24 with discrimination and harassment laws.

25 **CDBP Chair Remarks:** Dr. Gardner informed the Council of the importance of the Medicare
26 Regulation Strategic Discussion. She stressed that the Council should take the time needed during
27 the meeting to consider the topic fully and that we would adjust the rest of the agenda accordingly.
28 She also asked Council members to reflect on the discussions held during the House of Delegates
29 (HOD).

30 **Trustee Liaison Remarks:** Dr. Graham provided the Council with a brief update on Board activities.
31 He spoke about strategic forecasting activities and stressed the importance of the discussions that
32 the Council would be having during the meeting and how they would impact the industry.

33 **Confidentiality:** Dr. Aravamudhan, senior vice president, Practice Institute, discussed the importance
34 of confidentiality regarding materials and content discussed at Council meetings. She reminded the
35 Council of the abundance of information available on ADA Connect and stressed the value of keeping
36 states and districts informed about the work of the Council in an appropriate manner.

37 **2023 House of Delegates Actions:** Dr. Aravamudhan provided the Council with a high-level
38 summary on the House of Delegates actions.

39 **2023 Practice Institute Operating Plan Update:** The Council accepted, through the Consent
40 Calendar, an informational report detailing the status of the 2023 Practice Institute Operating Plan
41 highlighting ongoing and new programs.

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RELEVANT ADA INITIATIVES

2 **Executive Director's Presentation:** Dr. Cohlmia, executive director, provided updates on how the
3 ADA is defining deliverables and achieving value for the Tripartite and beyond. He provided the
4 Council with an overview of the trends in membership, the expectations and experiences of new
5 dentists, transitions in practice models, and projections for the future. Dr. Cohlmia stressed the need
6 for innovation at the ADA. He focused on the five business values that are driving the future, which are
7 customer/member focus, sustainability, innovation, nimbleness, and global presence. Dr. Cohlmia
8 expounded on three related goals — agile governance and decision making, connections across the
9 profession, and seamless member experiences. He also provided the Council with an update on
10 governance activities.

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EMERGING ISSUES

12 **Medicare Discussion with Chief Dental Officer:** Dr. Chalmers, chief dental officer, Centers for
13 Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), provided the Council with an update on Medicare Dental
14 Coverage. At the time of her presentation, the Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Physician Fee Schedule
15 (PFS) Proposed Rule was expected to be released shortly. She provided high-level updates regarding
16 enrollment, claims processing and coding, and other administrative details which would be further
17 described in the proposed rule.

18 Dr. Chalmers indicated that CMS is open to guidance on claims processing for dental procedures
19 under the medical benefit for medically necessary dental care. The Council questioned her about
20 dental fee schedules, the RVU system, and Medicare enrollment for providers when seeing
21 ambulatory patients. Dr. Chalmers invited the ADA to provide input into payment models that may be
22 suitable for payment of dental procedures reported using CDT codes.

23 **Medicare Regulation Strategic Discussion: Next Steps:** Dr. Gardner provided the Council with a
24 summary and context for the Medicare regulations related to payment for dental services inextricably
25 linked to medical procedures. The Council had a strategic discussion about what they heard from Dr.
26 Chalmers, as well as outstanding questions and concerns regarding these regulations. This discussion
27 included exploring ways of administering payments and addressed issues with the Medicare RVU
28 system as it applies to dental services.

29 After strategic discussion, the Council proposed and adopted the following resolution:

30 **Resolved**, that a request for proposal be issued to conduct research to:

- 31 1. document the structure of the current Medicare Resource-Based Relative Value Scale
32 (RBRVS) and
33 2. develop potential alternatives to support payments by Medicare for dental services
34 (reported using CDT codes) intrinsically related to medical covered procedures.

35 **Medicare Alternate Model Workgroup:** Dr. Moats briefed the Council on the newly formed Medicare
36 Alternate Model Workgroup. The workgroup was formed to develop a sliding scale voucher program
37 (or similar concept) to help Medicare beneficiaries with incomes under 300 percent of the federal
38 poverty level pay for dental care. This will be for the purpose of presenting such a plan to lawmakers.
39 Plans are underway to hold the first meeting of the workgroup, which consists of the following
40 members:

- 41 • Dr. Mark Moats, chair – CDBP
42 • Dr. Andrew Gazerro – CDBP

- 1 • Dr. Bertram Hughes – CDBP
- 2 • Dr. Stephen Morgan – CDBP
- 3 • Dr. David Hildebrandt – CGA
- 4 • Dr. Duke Ho – CGA
- 5 • Dr. Cheryl Watson-Lowry – CGA

6 **Medicaid Provider Participation:** Dr. Grover, senior director, Council on Advocacy for Access &
7 Prevention, updated the Council on the Medicaid State Pilot Project. The Project focuses on six
8 states with Private/Public provider partnerships to achieve the goal of improving access to care for
9 individuals enrolled in the Medicaid program. Dr. Grover discussed strategies for engaging providers,
10 highlighting the benefits and opportunities for Council members and their districts to get involved. A
11 brief survey of Council members was taken regarding their Medicaid program impressions and
12 engagement.

13 **CLINICAL DATA WAREHOUSE/REGISTRY**

14 **ADA Dental Experience & Research Exchange (DERE):** Through the consent calendar, the Council
15 accepted an update on the activities related to DERE.

16 **ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY**

17 **Credentialing:** Through the consent calendar, the Council accepted an update on the activities related
18 to the ADA credentialing service, powered by CAQH.

19 **Bento:** Through the consent calendar, the Council accepted an update on the activities related to
20 Bento.

21 **Dental Content Committee Update:** Dr. Morgan and Ms. Fiehn, director, Benefits, Coding and Dental
22 Data Exchange, provided an update on the activities of the Dental Content Committee (DeCC).

23 The Council adopted the following resolution:

24 **Resolved,** that the recommendation of United Concordia Companies for membership in the
25 interest category of Payer on the Dental Content Committee be approved; and be it further,

26 **Resolved,** that the recommendation of Dr. Jessica Stilley for membership in the interest
27 category of Provider on the Dental Content Committee be approved; and be it further,

28 **Resolved,** that the chair be given approval authority on recommendations for membership
29 from the Dental Content Committee.

30 **CORE Operating Rules Update:** Dr. Morgan and Ms. Fiehn provided an update on the CORE
31 Operating Rules. Initial development with CAQH CORE has been initiated, with an expected project
32 launch for fall 2023. CAQH will lead an industry effort to assess opportunities for improvements for
33 dentistry by convening a dental consensus group and developing a proposal for changes to the
34 operating rules. The proposal will need to be submitted to the National Committee on Vital Health
35 Statistics (NCVHS).

36 **DENTAL BENEFITS**

37 **Fee Negotiation Tools:** At the May 2023 Council meeting, the Council requested that the Dental
38 Benefit Information Subcommittee (DBIS) explore opportunities to create tools, aside from the
39 contract negotiation toolkit that already exists, to assist dentists in better negotiating reimbursement

1 rates with third party payers. ADA staff reported that in addition to calls from dentists about how to
2 negotiate payer fee schedules, dentists also inquire about how to terminate network participating
3 provider agreements.

4 After discussion, the Council adopted the following resolution:

5 **Resolved**, that the guide titled, Terminating a Network Agreement be approved, and the guide
6 be posted online on the dental insurance hub.

7 **Dentist Rating Systems Template:** Dr. Stuefen mentioned that at the May 2023 Council meeting,
8 the Council requested DBIS to draft a template for dentists to appeal their provider rating scores with
9 DentaQual. ADA staff noted that it had not received any calls or complaints from members regarding
10 the rating system. After further discussion, DBIS recommended that there was no need for a template
11 at this time and that staff continue to monitor the situation and report back to the Council with any
12 future recommendations.

13 **Third Party Payer Concierge:** Through the consent calendar, the Council accepted an update on the
14 activities related to the third party payer concierge service, including the number and type of calls
15 taken in 2023.

16 **2023 District Survey Report:** Dr. Stuefen shared an informational report on the results of the annual
17 district survey. The results have been shared with the states as well.

18 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

19 **Federal Government Affairs Update:** Mr. Burns, director, Legislative & Regulatory Policy and Dr.
20 Kent, chair, Council on Government Affairs (CGA), provided an update to the Council regarding CGA
21 activities and current federal government affairs. Dr. Kent shared highlights from the six workgroups
22 within the CGA. She noted that Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) and ERISA reform continue to be
23 legislative priorities for CGA.

24 **State Government Affairs (SGA) Update:** Mr. O'Connor, senior legislative liaison, provided an
25 update to the Council on state government affairs. Proposed rulemaking in Massachusetts for the
26 Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) has been released and SGA is watching these developments closely as it
27 could impact how MLR is rolled out in other states. Mr. O'Connor discussed other wins within state
28 government as well.

29 **QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT**

30 **Dental Quality Alliance Update:** Drs. Stuefen and Aravamudhan provided the history of the Dental
31 Quality Alliance (DQA). At the request of CMS, ADA established DQA to provide scientifically-sound
32 measures for quality of oral health care to be used by CMS. There was discussion to help council
33 members understand the purpose, scope, and role of the ADA's participation in relation to the DQA.

34 The Council adopted the following resolution:

35 **Resolved**, that a review of the Dental Quality Alliance governance structure and associated
36 documentation be conducted.

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CODING

2 **CMC Meeting Protocol Updates:** Dr. Olson and Ms. Dunsmoor, senior manager, Dental Codes
 3 Maintenance and Development, provided an update to the Council on staff recommendations for
 4 revisions to the current protocol document. The proposed amendments ensure consistency, provide
 5 clarity, eliminate content duplication, and make document maintenance more efficient.

6 The Council approved the following resolutions without further discussion.

7 **Resolved,** that the recommended updates to the CMC Operating Protocol document be
 8 accepted; and be it further,

9 **Resolved,** that the updated document be posted online on the appropriate public ADA
 10 Internet web page concerning the CDT Code maintenance process; and be it further,

11 **Resolved,** that the updated document be distributed to current and any added CMC member
 12 organization.

13 **ADA CDT 2025 Action Requests:** Dr. Olson and Ms. Dunsmoor gave an oral update on the number
 14 and nature of all requests transmitted to the Code Maintenance Committee (CMC) Secretariat by the
 15 submission due date of November 1, 2023. All complete action request forms will be prepared for
 16 consideration by the CMC when it convenes on March 7-8, 2024. Actions accepted by the CMC will
 17 be published in CDT 2025, the code set version effective January 1, 2025.

18 **SNODENT Update:** Ms. Dunsmoor provided the Council with background on how SNODENT works,
 19 why it is used, and its harmonization with SNOMED CT, a product of SNOMED International. She
 20 presented information regarding an interoperability solution for other countries using a restructured
 21 version of CDT. This potential new product offering meant for countries other than the United States,
 22 would map dental procedures into a format that could be used as an interface terminology, which
 23 could then map to procedures in SNOMED CT. Preliminary conversations with representatives from
 24 select countries appears promising. Ms. Dunsmoor noted that staff will continue conversations to
 25 determine if a new product around dental procedures could be launched internationally.

26 **CDT Licenses and Fee Adjustments:** The Council, approved, through the Consent Calendar, the
 27 following resolution concerning fee adjustments for the various type of CDT Code licenses.

28 **Resolved,** that the following CDT License Fee increases for 2025 be approved.

#	CDT License Type	Increase
1	National Association of Dental Plans (NADP) or America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) members	7.5%
2	Dental Benefit Plans /Third-Party Administrators	10%
3	Electronic Claim Transaction Clearinghouses – Category B	10%
4	Electronic Claim Transaction Clearinghouses – Category C	15%

5	Practice Management Software Vendors	15%
6	Dental Specialty Societies	20%
7	Healthcare Software Vendors	21%
8	Publishing	33%
9	Seminars	33%

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LIAISON/CONSULTANT REPORTS

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Report of the New Dentist Committee: Dr. Ehsani introduced herself to the Council and provided an update on New Dentist Committee (NDC) activities.

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Report of the American Student Dental Association: The Council was provided with an informational report.

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COUNCIL OPERATIONS

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Council Meeting Dates: The Council held a discussion regarding future meeting dates and was encouraged to leverage the opportunity to hold virtual meetings when needed. The Council determined they would meet in May for a full-day Friday meeting. Additional details will be provided.

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2023-2024 Subcommittee Appointments: Dr. Gardner reviewed the subcommittee appointments. Through the consent calendar, the Council accepted an informational report listing subcommittee appointments.

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2023-2024 Subcommittee and Major Meeting Dates: Through the consent calendar, the Council accepted an informational report on upcoming dates for subcommittee meetings.

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Appointment of Consultants: Through the consent calendar, the Council approved the following action.

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Resolved, that the following consultants to the Council on Dental Benefit Programs be approved for terms ending with the 2024 annual session.

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Amundson, Craig W., D.D.S., Brooklyn Center, MN

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Bulnes, Chris, D.M.D., Tampa, FL

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Candelaria, Lionel M., D.D.S., Albuquerque, NM

23

Crall, James J., D.D.S., M.S., Sc.D., Los Angeles, CA

24

Dens, Kevin W., D.D.S., Baxter, MN

25

Everts, Joshua E., D.D.S., Alabaster, AL

26

Hill, Rodney, D.D.S., Casper, WY

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Hillgen, IV, John J., D.M.D., M.B.A., Waterbury, CT

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Hilton, Irene, D.D.S., M.P.H., San Francisco, CA

- 1 **Jurkovich, Mark W., D.D.S.**, Chisago City, MN
- 2 **MiHalo, Mark J., D.D.S.**, LaPorte, IN
- 3 **Pitts, Adam S., D.D.S.**, Franklin, TN
- 4 **Strohschein, Marvin J., D.D.S.**, Petosky, MI
- 5 **Thyvalikakath, Thankam P., D.M.D., M.D.S., Ph.D.**, Indianapolis, IN
- 6 **Walji, Muhammad F., M.S., Ph.D.**, Houston, TX

7 **Guest Council Chair Presentations:** Chairs from the Council on Dental Practice and Council on
8 Government Affairs, provided updates on activities and programs. The Council was briefed on
9 resolutions, policies, subcommittee initiatives, and upcoming webinars.

10 **Adjournment:** 11:00 a.m. Central Time