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**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL ON DENTAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS
ADA HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, CHICAGO
November 11-12, 2021**

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs (CDBP) was called to order by Dr. Kevin Dens, chair, on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. in the Executive Boardroom, ADA Headquarters, Chicago, IL.

Roll Call: Dr. Kevin Dens, Dr. Jessica Stille-Mallah, Dr. Roderick Adams, Jr., Dr. Dennis L. Bradshaw (*not present*), Dr. Adrian J. Carrington, Dr. William V. Dougherty, Dr. Stacey Gardner, Dr. Andrew Gazerro, III, Dr. Hadi Ghazzouli, Dr. Rodney Hill, Dr. Mark Johnston, Dr. Susan D. Jolliff, Dr. Mark A. Moats, Dr. Vishruti Patel, Dr. Eugene G. Porcelli (*via Zoom Thursday, not present Friday*), Dr. L. King Scott, Dr. Scott Trapp, Dr. Paul Leary, Trustee; Dr. J. Luke Andrew, New Dentist Member; Mr. Sammy Huynh, ASDA Consultant

Practice Institute (PI) Staff in attendance (for all or part of the meeting): Dr. David M. Preble, Dr. Krishna Aravamudhan, Mr. Paul Bralower, Ms. Erica Colangelo, Ms. Barbara Ferriter, Ms. Lauren Kirk, Mr. Dennis McHugh, Ms. Jean Narcisi, Dr. Diptee Ojha, Mr. Frank Pokorny, Ms. Sharon Stanford, Ms. Sarah Tilleman, Ms. Joan Feifar, Mr. Sean Layman

Association Staff in attendance for all or part of the meeting: Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, Dr. Raymond Cohlma, Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, Mr. Mike Graham, Mr. C. Michael Kendall, Mr. Paul O'Connor, Mr. Chad Olson, Ms. Roxanne Yaghoubi

Guests present for portions of the meeting: Dr. Cesar Sabates, ADA President; Ms. Colleen Ayala, Director, RCM Product, Change Healthcare; Mr. Erick Joseph, Vice President Revenue Cycle management, Change Healthcare; Ms. Tyrette Hamilton, Chief Operating Officer & General Manager, Payer Market, P&R Dental Strategies; Mr. Michael Urbach, Executive Vice President, Strategic Sales & Business Development, P&R Dental Strategies; Dr. Dan Croley, Chief Dental Officer, Delta Dental of California; Dr. Mark Jurkovich, CDBP Consultant.

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

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement: The Chair 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: 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. Council members were given the opportunity to remove any item from the consent calendar for consideration during the meeting.

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

Resolved, that the actions approved through e-ballot since the July 2021 Council meeting be recorded in the minutes from this meeting.

E-ballot 2021-01:

1 marketplace and the upcoming launch of Dental Benefits Advisor, as well as similar products that
2 may enter the market.

3 Upon discussion, the Council adopted the following resolution.

4 **Resolved**, that Dental Benefits Information Subcommittee (DBIS) continue to monitor
5 market solutions for verifying eligibility, benefits and estimating costs and report back
6 to the Council at the May 2022 meeting.

7 **Medicare Update:** Mr. Mike Graham provided a recap of the legislative action regarding a
8 Medicare Dental benefit under Part B. He explained the House proposal was unlikely to
9 include an expansion of Medicare and noted that the DC Office would continue to monitor
10 Senate activity and engage Senators and their staff to help educate them regarding dental
11 benefits and access to care for seniors. Mr. Graham noted that the lack of unity within
12 organized dentistry and the less than anticipated response to grass-roots alerts somewhat
13 hampered lobbying efforts. He alerted the Council that this issue would likely be re-visited
14 again in the near future and building a coalition within organized dentistry before that time was
15 of utmost importance. Dr. Dens encouraged the Council to continue to engage in discussions
16 regarding the best path to improve access to dental care for seniors.

17 **DentaQual Program:** Representatives from P & R Dental Strategies and Delta Dental of California
18 presented the DentaQual program, a provider rating system, to the Council. The DentaQual program
19 utilizes a variety of performance measures to derive ratings on a 0 – 5 scale. Recently, several dental
20 insurance carriers have begun publicly displaying this score to represent the “quality of care” in their
21 provider directories. Council members expressed concerns whether measures used in the program
22 were, in fact, measures indicative of “quality”. Council members also noted that the DQA, as the
23 authority on setting standards for quality for dentistry, be consulted on assessing the validity of the
24 measures used in the rating program.

25 **RELEVANT ADA INITIATIVES**

26 **Executive Director’s Presentation:** Dr. Kathleen O’Loughlin, outgoing executive director,
27 provided a snapshot of the status of membership in the ADA. She further discussed the
28 complexity of today’s dentists with regards to their expectations, the differences from previous
29 generations and the ADA’s goal to reach and help all dentists with simplicity and efficiency. Dr.
30 O’Loughlin reminded the Council that although the ADA’s goals and strategies changed with
31 the advent of Covid-19, it rose to the challenges. Current priorities and strategies were then
32 discussed noting the financial stability of the ADA.

33 Dr. Cohlmia, incoming executive director, spoke on the changes in the dental profession
34 including the different ways dental care is now being provided. He explained that because new
35 dentists desire and require information and assistance easily and quickly, new and different
36 platforms for disseminating this information will continue to be implemented.

37 **CLINICAL DATA REGISTRY**

38 **Registry Update:** Dr. Dens and Dr. Ojha provided an update on the activities of Dental Experience &
39 Research Exchange (DERE), including a demonstration of the system. Dr. Dens informed the Council
40 that there were 20 practices who have enrolled with 12 of those completely integrated. Dr. Dens and
41 Staff also updated the Council on the integration progress related to Epic and Dentrix.

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ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY

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Bento: Dr. Johnston provided the Council with some background information and a current update on Bento, including an overview of Bento's In-Office Plan product and their PPO network for self-funded employers. Council's discussion emphasized the ease of use of Bento's software for dentists, as well as why the ADA believes that Bento is well-equipped to be an industry disruptor. Council volunteers and staff will continue work diligently in 2022 to grow engagement among state society leadership in order to help build name recognition and support for Bento and their growth nationally.

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Credentialing: Dr. Johnston asked staff to update the Council on the credentialing service's strong performance to date in 2021, including an overview of the most recent adoption metrics. Of note, the Council heard about the successful outcome of targeted efforts that have been underway in Texas as part of a pilot demonstration project to explore if state-specific collaboration with state associations and payers in the state can increase adoption among dentists. Staff also reported on their recent engagement with CMS through their monthly OTAG (Oral health Technical Advisory Group) call and the continued efforts to recruit state Medicaid agencies to adopt CAQH for their enrollment and credentialing activities.

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ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics Update: The Council received and accepted, through the consent calendar, an informational update on the activities of the Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI) including those relevant SCDI work projects that impact the Council.

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DENTAL BENEFITS

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State Activity: District Reports: Dr. Johnston thanked the members for having their states fill the survey out. Dr. Dens noted that 20 of 50 states didn't respond and requested the volunteers strongly encourage their states' EDs fill out the questionnaire in order that the concerns of the states can be recorded and addressed. Staff reported that aggregate survey results will be distributed to all states who responded to the survey.

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Price Transparency in Coverage: Dr. Johnston provided the Council with a brief overview of the issue, including a position memo from Delta Dental regarding their concerns with the drafted regulations. After some discussion, the Council decided that no action was needed at this time.

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Third Party Payer Concierge Service: The Council discussed the reinstatement of the third party payer concierge service which provides direct member service on dental insurance issues and electronic claim processing related questions. The service was discontinued November 16, 2020; however, a resolution was adopted by the 2021 House of Delegates to reinstate the program effective January 2022.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Division of Government and Public Affairs/ Washington Office Report: Ms. Yaghoubi reported on new issues that have arisen since the written report. She provided a background on the Council on Government Affairs (CGA) which works on several CDBP-related issues and informed the Council that Dr. Natalia Chalmers was recently named CMS' first-ever Chief Dental Officer.

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Ms. Yaghoubi touched on some matters of interest including that the ADA is advocating for an adult dental benefit in Medicaid and supports the Medicaid Dental Benefit Act which would make comprehensive dental services a mandatory coverage category for all adults on Medicaid. She noted that an issue in Washington currently is the vaccine mandate – OSHA released a rule requiring businesses with more than 100 employees to be vaccinated or submit to testing weekly

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1 and wear a mask. Although it doesn't apply to most dental offices large DSOs would be affected
2 by the rule.

3 **Division of Government and Public Affairs/ State Government Affairs Report:** Mr. Olson
4 reported on some of the many activities that states are engaged in with respect to dental
5 insurance, noting that there are 18 states with 28 new laws in 2021. Mr. O'Connor informed the
6 Council of a few updates that occurred since the written report was submitted including those
7 laws that passed in the most states. Referencing the model act adopted by the national Council of
8 Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), he noted that out of the 15 states that pursued a version of the
9 NCOIL model this year, 13 new laws have been enacted based on the model.

10 **QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT (QAI)**

11 **Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) Activities Update:** The Council approved, through the Consent
12 Calendar, a report on the activities of the DQA since July 2021. The report included information on
13 inclusion of additional DQA measures into the CMS Core Set, Educational Resources, State Medicaid
14 program quality score cards, and stated that a draft report on measuring oral healthcare quality for
15 older adults was out for public comment in August 2021.

16 **CODING**

17 **SNODENT: What is it?** Dr. Mark Jurkovich provided an in-depth presentation and explanation of
18 SNODENT and SNOMED including a brief history, noting that SNODENT was developed by the ADA
19 nearly 20 years ago to serve as a set of terms in dentistry related to findings and diagnostic
20 terms. Also shared were the commonalities and differences between SNOMED AND SNODENT,
21 and how they differ from ICD10. Dr. Jurkovich further presented information on how terminologies
22 work in EDRs, and adoption constraints and drivers.

23 **CDT Action Request Evaluation Guidelines Updates:** The Council received the CATS
24 recommendation on revised guidelines, prepared in accordance with direction given during the July
25 Council meeting. These revisions address the errors and omissions noted in the current published
26 guidance. The guidelines are published to (1) assist requestors in preparing their CDT Code Action
27 Request form, and (2) aid CMC members determine whether to accept or decline a requested action.

28 The Council approved the following resolutions without further discussion.

29 **Resolved**, that the Council accept the recommended updates to the CDT Code
30 Action Request guidelines, and be it further

31 **Resolved**, that the updated guidelines be posted online on the appropriate public
32 ADA Internet web page concerning the CDT Code maintenance process, and be it
33 further

34 **Resolved**, that the updated guidelines be published in the CMC Operating Protocol
35 document.

36 **CM Operating Protocol Updates:** The Council received staff recommendations on revisions to the
37 current protocol document, prepared in accordance with direction given during the July Council
38 meeting. These revisions address missing processes (i.e., addressing requests for new member
39 organization participation; resolving member organization non-participation) and other unclear or
40 obsolete content (e.g., duties of the Chair; reference to Council ADA Bylaws responsibilities).

41 The Council approved the following resolutions without further discussion.

42 **Resolved**, that the Council accept the recommended updates to the CMC Operating
43 Protocol document, and be it further

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

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

6 **ADA/CDBP CDT 2023 Action Requests:** The Council received an oral update on informational
 7 report included in the agenda package. That report conveyed information on the three action
 8 requests submitted by the Council on behalf of the ADA. There was an oral summary report on the
 9 other substantive action requests received by the November 1, 2021 submission closing date.
 10 Seventy-five is the final count of substantive action requests to be considered by the Code
 11 Maintenance Committee when it convenes in March 2022. An update on the CMC's actions will be
 12 delivered when the Council convenes in May 2022.

13 **Enhanced CDT Taskforce Activity Update:** The Council received an oral update on the
 14 informational report included in the agenda package. This update addressed the Taskforce's initial
 15 work product – the "Enhanced CDT Code Purpose Statement" that will serve as the public rationale
 16 for the project. The statement also provides a context for the "listening sessions" to convene in the 1st
 17 quarter 2022, where members of the dental community will provide their perspectives on the needs
 18 for an enhanced CDT Code.

19 Council discussion focused on the enhanced CDT Code's significant feature, an architecture change
 20 that would add a procedure modifier code set to the established set of CDT codes. Modifiers are an
 21 adjunct to procedure codes that would enable a dentist to prepare a more granular and robust patient
 22 record and claim submission.

23 The formal report from the Taskforce is scheduled to be delivered at the November 2022 Council
 24 meeting; an activity status update will be delivered when the Council convenes in May 2022.

25 **Dental Claim Form Advisory Committee Update:** This Council committee recommended that the
 26 State of Maine's request for inclusion of a printed consumer fraud warning on the ADA Dental Claim
 27 Form be declined. DeCFAC noted that the state's written request acknowledged that it had no
 28 statutory authority to make such a request of the ADA; the state law is applicable only to third-party
 29 payers. ADA staff, including legal, reviewed the draft ADA response letter included in the
 30 recommendation report. The Council approved the following resolution without further discussion.

31 **Resolved**, that the Council approve delivery of the written response concerning the
 32 statutory consumer fraud warning to the State of Maine.

33 **CDT License Fee Adjustments:** The Council approved, through the Consent Calendar, the following
 34 resolution concerning fee adjustments for the various types of CDT Code licenses.

35 **Resolved**, that the following CDT License Fee increases for 2023 be approved.

#	CDT License Type	Increase
1.	National Association of Dental Plans (NADP) or America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) members	5.5%
2.	Dental Benefit Plans /Third-Party Administrators	5.5%
3.	Electronic Claim Transaction Clearinghouses – Category B	5.5%

4.	Electronic Claim Transaction Clearinghouses – Category C	7.0%
5.	Practice Management Software Vendors	7.0%
6.	Healthcare Software Vendors	7.0%
7.	Publishing	11.0%
8.	Seminars	0.0%
9.	Dental Specialty Societies	0.0%

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LIAISON/ CONSULTANT Reports

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Report of the New Dentist Member: Dr. Andrew reviewed in a bit more depth, much of what was submitted in the agenda report. He reiterated what Dr. O’Loughlin spoke of regarding the differences in the needs and wants of new dentists in their career versus those of established dentists stating his hope to both utilize their knowledge and expertise and also to share the viewpoints of the new dentists.

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Report of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA): Mr. Huynh appreciated the fact that although much of the information discussed at the Council Meeting was not relevant to him in the present but, is valuable to his future as a dentist. He confirmed the importance of membership and shared that this year will focus on member engagement within their own group, inspiring and encouraging students to have a lifelong commitment to organized dentistry and the ADA.

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COUNCIL OPERATIONS

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Subcommittee Appointments: The Council accepted (through the consent calendar) an informational report listing subcommittee appointments.

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2021-2022 Subcommittee & Major Meeting Dates: The Council accepted (through the consent calendar) an informational report on upcoming dates for subcommittee meetings

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Future Council Meeting Dates: After a brief review, the Council adopted the following resolution.

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Resolved, that the proposed dates for the May and November 2023 Council Meetings be approved.

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Appointment of Consultants: The Council approved the following action through the consent calendar.

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Resolved, that the following consultants to the Council on Dental Benefit Programs be approved for the term ending with the 2022 Annual meeting.

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- Amundson, Craig W., D.D.S.,** Brooklyn Center, MN
- Ayala, Colleen, Director RCM Product, Change Healthcare,** Nashville, TN
- Brown, Timothy L., Deputy Executive Director, NADP,** Dallas, TX
- Bulnes, Christopher M., D.M.D.,** Tampa, FL
- Cooley, Ralph A., D.D.S., F.A.G.D.,** Houston, TX
- Crall, James J., D.D.S., M.S., Sc.D,** Los Angeles, CA

- 1 **Everts, Joshua E., D.D.S.**, Alabaster, AL
- 2 **Dill, Joseph, D.D.S.**, Oak Brook, IL
- 3 **Hilton, Irene, D.D.S., M.P.H.**, San Francisco, CA
- 4 **Jurkovich, Mark W., D.D.S.**, Chisago City, MN
- 5 **Markarian, Randall C., D.D.S.**, Swansea, IL
- 6 **Mercer, James E., D.D.S.**, West Columbia, SC
- 7 **Mihalo, Mark J., D.D.S.**, La Porte, IN
- 8 **Ott, Russell, Specialist Leader Health Technology, Deloitte Consulting**, Arlington,
- 9 VA
- 10 **Pitts, Adam S., D.D.S.**, Franklin, TN
- 11 **Smith, Mary Beth Eaglesoft Product Mgr., Patterson**, St. Paul, MN
- 12 **Strohschein, Marvin J., D.D.S.**, Petosky, MI
- 13 **Thyvalikakathm, Thankam, D.M.D., M.D.S., Ph.D.**, Indianapolis, IN
- 14 **Walji, Muhammad, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.**, Houston, TX
- 15 **Watson, Hope E., D.M.D.**, Maryville, TN

16 **Adjournment: 11:30 AM**