

July 16, 2021

Daniel Tsai
Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS)
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Deputy Administrator Tsai:

On behalf of our 162,000 members, the American Dental Association (ADA) would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Administrator and Director of CMCS. Leveraging your past leadership within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the Assistant Secretary for MassHealth and as its Medicaid Director will undoubtedly assist you in leading some of our nation's largest health programs overseen by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

We look forward to working with you on the following areas:

- Expanding the participation of dentists in Medicaid through increased reimbursement and reduced administrative burden, such as the easement of credentialing, audit processes and encouragement of clean claims paid within 15 days;
- Requiring the CMS Center for Program Integrity to issue guidance to state Medicaid agencies (SMAs) concerning best practices in dental audits and developing standardized training for dental auditors;
- Providing guidance to SMAs to streamline dentist credentialing by utilizing the ADA Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) credentialing service or equivalent;
- Establishing the benchmark floor for all Medicaid dental fees at 75th percentile of regional dental fees based on ADA survey data;
- Working to enhance consistent adult dental benefits across all Medicaid programs;
- Partnering with the dental community to establish an appropriate Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) billing code to help address ongoing challenges regarding access to dental rehabilitative services in operating rooms in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers;

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- Increasing oral health equity, including incentivizing dentists to practice in underserved communities across the United States and strengthening support for Action for Dental Health initiatives.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Klemmedson, D.D.S., M.D.
President

Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

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