

States Which Directly Reimburse Dental Hygienists for Services under the Medicaid Program

The following 15 states are those which contain statutory or regulatory language allowing the state Medicaid department to directly reimburse dental hygienists for services rendered.



Arizona – AHCCS Medical Policy Manual 610-1 (2007)

Dental hygienists in affiliated practice with a dentist who is also a Medicaid provider may be reimbursed for services included in the practice agreement with the dentist.



California – Statute – 1413 (1998)

The state Medicaid rules provide for RDHAP's to be directly reimbursed.

All dental hygiene services provided by a Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP's) pursuant to the practice act may be covered as long as they are within the scope of Denti-Cal benefits and they are necessary services provided by a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice.



Colorado – 25.5-4-411 (Formerly 26-4-414.3) (2001)

Authorizes reimbursement of unsupervised dental hygienists for services to children. Dental hygienists employed by a dentist, institution or clinic cannot submit claims individually. Dental hygienists who are directly reimbursed must identify Medicaid-participating dentists or any other licensed dentist for each child the dental hygienist serves.

Unsupervised dental hygienists may provide and bill for preventive services: oral prophylaxis, fluoride, sealants and oral hygiene instructions.

There are 64 dental hygienists enrolled as Medicaid providers.



Connecticut – Medicaid Regulations, Sec. 17b-262-695 (2001)

All dental hygienists who participate in Medicaid shall be public health dental hygienists.

The regulations cite what services will be reimbursed to dental hygienists and in which settings they can practice. Settings include a nursing home, a group home, a school without a dental clinic, a hospital without a dental clinic and a community health center without a dental clinic.



Maine – Bureau of Medical Services Regulations, MaineCare Benefits Manual 10-144, 25.07-5 (2002)

Maine is somewhat unique in that entities are reimbursed but every dental hygienist who works for an enrolled entity must also enroll as a Medicaid provider.

Dental hygiene services shall be reimbursed to entities enrolled as MaineCare providers employing or sponsoring licensed hygienists providing hygienist services allowed under Public Health Supervision. Entities wishing to enroll as MaineCare providers must submit documentation showing they meet the requirements for Public Health Supervision status and must enroll all hygienists as MaineCare servicing providers with proof of licensure. Hygienists must meet the requirements of Public Health Supervision status to enroll.

Prevention Partners, a 501 c3, a non-profit public charity is governed by a volunteer board and employs an experienced dental hygienist to direct the statewide program. Prevention Partners is a Maine Care provider and employs qualified dental hygienists and dental hygiene assistants for oral hygiene preventive maintenance for optimal health by providing care to the underserved in schools, WICS, physician's offices, hospitals, food kitchens and churches, using portable equipment and supplies. Over 7,200 people have received subgingival irrigation, debriderments, prophylaxis, temporary fillings, fluoride varnish, oral cancer screenings and tobacco counseling in nearly 600 clinics, since March of 2003.

Massachusetts - (2009)

The Massachusetts Dental Practice Act authorizes Public Health Dental Hygienists to be directly reimbursed by Medicaid. Pending rules change.

Minnesota - Minnesota Department of Human Services (2003)

A policy change by the state department of human services was made in fall of 2002 allowing dental hygienists to apply for Medicaid provider numbers. This policy change was made in conjunction with collaborative practice. To obtain a provider number, a dental hygienist must complete the application form provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The provider must comply with rules relating to the delivery of services to individuals and to the submission of claims for such services.

Missouri – 332.311.1-2, Statute (2001)

Dental hygienists with 3 years experience and practicing in a public health setting may provide fluoride treatments, oral prophylaxis and sealants, if appropriate, to children who are eligible for medical assistance without the supervision of a dentist. Hygienists are reimbursed for fluoride treatments, oral prophylaxis and sealants.

Montana- Rule 37.86.1001 (2006)

As of July 2006, dental hygienist practicing under public health supervision may provide preventive dental hygiene services.

Nebraska -Rule 6.007 (2008)

Lists dental hygienists as Medicaid dental providers.



New Mexico – NMAC 8.310.7.10 New Mexico Medical Assistance Division Regulations (2002)

Dental hygienists, who are certified for collaborative practice, may provide dental hygiene services to Medicaid recipients as allowed by their scope of practice. The services that will be reimbursed are listed specifically in the section: oral prophylaxis, sealants, fluoride treatments, etc.

Twenty (20) dental hygienists are enrolled as Medicaid providers.



Nevada – 1003.20 (Dental Manual) Department of Human Resources (2003)

Although the Nevada Medicaid laws remain non-specific concerning providers, in 2003 the department began to issue provider numbers to dental hygienists practicing without supervision in public settings. The Dental Manual notes dental hygienists as providers.



Oregon – Medicaid Regulations, Office of Medical Assistance, OAR 410-.23-1040(a); OAR 410-123-1060 (8) (1999)

Medicaid will reimburse dental hygienists and denturists as well as dentists. It will also pay for services provided by a person under the supervision of a limited access permit dental hygienist.



Washington – WAC 388-535-1070 (1998)

Dental hygienists are listed as providers eligible to enroll with the state medical assistance administration (MAA) to furnish and bill for dental-related services to eligible clients.



Wisconsin – HFS 105.01 and 105.06 (2006)

A rule passed in June 2006 enables dental hygienists certified as Medicaid providers by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services to be directly reimbursed for a specific set of preventive services, including: prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, sealants, and oral health evaluations.

Sources: State Practice Acts, State Medicaid Regulations, Division of Governmental Affairs



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February 2009