

State of Alaska
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Sarah Palin, Governor

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Medicaid dental care for adults

Medicaid dental services for adults now includes preventive and restorative dental care

Program overview

- Adults enrolled in Medicaid will have coverage for preventive and restorative dental care beginning April 2007. In the past, only emergency dental care was offered to relieve pain or to fight acute infection.
- Legislation passed in 2006 authorized the change to Medicaid for preventive and restorative coverage for adult dental Medicaid services.
- Since summer 2006 the state has worked to complete regulations and receive federal authorization. Recently the State Medicaid Plan was approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, state regulations are now in place, and Alaska dental Medicaid providers have been informed of the changes.
- There are parameters in place to keep total program costs within the fiscal limits set by the legislature including: an annual cap for dental services for each individual, with a possible adjustment in fiscal year 2009, should the use exceed estimates; a three year sunset on the program, set for June 30, 2009, to provide a trial period and an opportunity to evaluate the program.

Dental services covered

- Adult Medicaid recipients have coverage for preventive and restorative dental care services, up to an annual cap of \$1,150 per state fiscal year.
- Eligible adults will have access to preventive and restorative dental services including exams, cleanings, tooth restoration, crowns, root canals, and dentures.
- Missed appointments are a reason dentists often give for not accepting more Medicaid patients. To encourage patients to keep appointments, dentists are now allowed to bill Medicaid patients for missed appointments if it is the office policy for all patients.
- Additional information on the adult dental Medicaid services, including a full list of covered services can be found at: www.hss.state.ak.us/dhcs/dental/. Recipients can also call the First Health recipient helpline at 1-800-780-9972 for questions or locate a dentist currently accepting new Medicaid patients.

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