

Special Care Dentistry

Policy Brief on Medicaid Benefits

Adopted December 2, 2003



Special Care Dentistry, representing the nation's experts in geriatric dentistry, dental care for persons with disabilities, and hospital dentistry have concluded that *Medicaid oral health services are medically necessary for poor children and adults who are aged, blind and disabled*. As a society we have agreed to prioritize oral health services for our most vulnerable citizens. In the past this philosophy has resulted in mandatory oral health coverage under the Medicaid program for children. SCD believes that Medicaid eligible adults who are "aged, blind, or disabled" are also among our nation's most vulnerable citizens and deserve oral health service coverage in every state under the Medicaid program. SCD is therefore in favor of making oral health benefits for Medicaid eligible adults who are aged, blind or disabled mandatory under every state's Medicaid program along with continuing mandatory coverage for children. SCD is actively forming partnerships with other national organizations to advocate for such services.

- SCD strongly supports a national mandatory Medicaid expansion requiring provision of oral health services to Medicaid eligible adults who are aged, blind, or disabled. These services must include appropriate and necessary procedures for this special and more challenging population.
- SCD supports a national 90/10 federal/state funding match on Medicaid oral health services for Medicaid eligible children or Medicaid eligible adults who are aged, blind, or disabled.
- SCD opposes eliminating mandatory Medicaid oral health services for Medicaid eligible children.
- SCD opposes state caps or annual maximums in Medicaid oral health programs for Medicaid eligible children or Medicaid eligible adults who are aged, blind, or disabled.
- SCD opposes cost sharing or co-payments restricting individual Medicaid oral health benefits for Medicaid eligible children or Medicaid eligible adults who are aged, blind, or disabled.
- SCD opposes proposals to limit federal matching funds for oral health services for Medicaid eligible children or Medicaid eligible adults who are aged, blind, or disabled.