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SUBJECT Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner Enrollment in the Medical Assistance Program		BY  Leesa M. Allen, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISE to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994.

PURPOSE:

This bulletin is to inform providers that Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioners (PHDHPs) must enroll in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program to provide services to beneficiaries in the MA managed care delivery system and to provide information on how PHDHPs can enroll in the MA Program.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to PHDHPs seeking to enroll in the MA Program to render services under the MA managed care delivery system. Questions pertaining to payment, network development and quality of care for services rendered under the managed care delivery system should be directed to the appropriate managed care organization. The Department of Human Services (Department) will maintain oversight of each managed care organization's implementation of the PHDHP program.

BACKGROUND:

PHDHPs are licensed dental hygienists who are certified by the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry and may render certain services without the direct supervision of a dentist including cleaning teeth, taking x-rays, polishing fillings, identifying cavities, making molds for dental prosthetics, evaluating patients and educating patients about oral health. PHDHPs may render those services in schools, correctional facilities, health care facilities, personal care homes, domiciliary care facilities, older adult daily living centers, continuing care provider facilities, health centers and public or private institutions under the jurisdiction of a Federal, State or local agency.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at
<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

Additional information on PHDHPs may be obtained from the State Board of Dentistry, Subchapter C. Minimum Standards of Conduct and Practice regulations at 49 Pa.Code § 33.205b, pertaining to practice as a public health dental hygiene practitioner, which may be viewed by accessing the following website link:

<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter33/s33.205b.html>.

DISCUSSION:

Federal Medicaid regulations at 42 CFR §§ 438.602(b) and 438.608(b), relating to the state’s responsibilities for screening and enrollment and revalidation of providers, and program integrity requirements under the contract for provider screening and enrollment requirements, respectively, require the Department to screen and enroll, and periodically revalidate, all network providers of MA managed care organizations (MCOs) in accordance with the requirements of 42 CFR 455, subparts B and E. In compliance with federal requirements, PHDHPs who wish to participate as MA MCO network providers and render services to MA beneficiaries in the MA managed care delivery system, must be enrolled in the MA Program.

Additionally, in accordance with MA Program regulations at 55 Pa.Code § 1149, relating to dentists’ services, the Department will continue to pay dentists for dental services, to include those performed by PHDHPs they employ, in the MA Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system. Further, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) will continue to be paid their provider-specific prospective payment system dental rate for dental services rendered in the FQHC setting under the FFS delivery system.

PROCEDURE:

The Department will enroll licensed PHDHPs to provide services within their scope of practice under the MA managed care delivery system. PHDHPs will be enrolled as Mid-Level Practitioners with a Public Health Dental Hygienist specialty as follows:

Provider Type	Specialty Code	Specialty Code Description
10	269	Public Health Dental Hygienist

Information on how to complete and submit an enrollment application may be viewed by accessing the Enrollment Information page on the Department’s website at the following link: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994.

A PHDHP may submit an online provider enrollment application using the Department’s secure web portal or download a paper application and submit it with the required supporting documentation by mail, e-mail or fax by following the instructions in the application.