

Review of State Medicaid Dental Programs

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The Dental program has researched other states' dental programs and the role that managed care (MC) plays in those programs, if any. This is a general overview.

The information gathered comes from the Kaiser Family Foundation, Oral Technical Advisory Group (OTAG) and The Kids Oral Health group members with CMS, and the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute.

From the Kaiser Family Foundation website:

- 70% of Medicaid enrollees nationwide that receive medical services are in a MC delivery system
- 3 states do not have any type of MC:
Wyoming, Delaware, and Alaska
- all other states have some level of MC involved in the delivery of services

According to CMS through Medicaid.gov and OTAG:

- 38 states provide dental services through a combination MC and others are FFS (Fee-for-service)
- 12 states provide dental services all in MC
- the remaining 9 states provide dental services through FFS

Accountable Care Organizations, (types of managed care organizations) in the nation:

- brief published by the Health Policy Institute of the American Dental Association conducted a survey in late 2012 through early 2014
- found over 600 ACOs that serve more than 18 million commercial and Medicaid patients in general health services

- of the ACOs surveyed in this study time period, the number of ACOs that provided commercial dental services increased from 8% to 26%
- found there are more ACOs that have a Medicaid contract if they are responsible for dental services than those that don't provide dental services

- of ACOs formed after Sept 2012, 47% of them had Medicaid dental services contracts in which they were responsible for the cost and quality of the services
- almost ½ of ACOs responsible for dental services are found in the South
- the authors suggest that ACOs are more likely to integrate dental services with Medicaid population bases

Three questions posed to the Kids Oral Health list serve members were:

1. In your state, how are the Dental services administered (MC, FFS, or combination)?
2. If your state has changed from FFS to MC, have you found it to more cost effective than FFS delivery?
3. If your state has changed from FFS to MC, have you found it to be better for recipients and providers?

As of the afternoon of 08/13/2015,

Question #1 - 14 states responded:

- 9 states indicated their services are delivered through FFS
- 4 states indicated services are through MC
- 2 states indicated a combination of FFS and MC
- 1 of the FFS states said they have plans to transition to managed care soon

Question #2 - 5 states responded:

- 3 states have not had MC long enough to be determined if it is cost effective
- two states answered it has not been cost effective

Question #3- 4 states responded:

- 3 states answered their recipients and/or providers are “struggling”
- 1 state answered recipients have better access through MC than FFS

As we can see, the environment of other states' Medicaid Dental programs are diverse and thought provoking amidst the many challenges that dental providers and Medicaid programs face. The intention is to contact some states individually, research more in the next few weeks, and to bring an update to you at the next meeting.