



In affiliation with WAHA

Access Updates

Quarterly Oral Health Coalition Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Medicaid dental coverage

Effective July 1, 2011, comprehensive dental services were restored for three groups of Medicaid adults:

- 1) Women who are pregnant, including a 60-day postpartum period**
 - Requires a letter from patient's medical provider confirming the pregnancy and stating the expected date of delivery.

- 2) Clients living in nursing homes or Intermediate Care Facility for the Intellectually Disabled (ICF/ID)**
 - Requires a letter from client's place of residence certifying that client is a resident of that facility on the date the services are received.

- 3) Adults enrolled in 1915 (c) Home and Community Based waiver programs.**
 - Requires a copy of client's current Planned Action Notice (PAN) showing the authorization of a waived service to the dentist to show eligibility for services on the date of service. PAN will have one of the following programs or abbreviations named in the Program section at the top of the letter:
 - Home and Community Services Division waivers
 - COPES
 - New Freedom (NFCDS)
 - Medically Needy Residential (MNRW)
 - Medically Needy In-Home (MNIW)

 - Developmental Disabilities Division waivers
 - Basic
 - Basic Plus
 - Core
 - Community Protection

Effective October 1, 2011, the following clients will no longer be eligible for comprehensive dental services:

- Adult clients whose care is managed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities but who do not fit in the categories above.

Sources: Health Care Authority Memo # 11-51 <http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/download/Memos/2011Memos/11-51.pdf>
Medicaid Client Letter <http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/News/Budget/Budgetcuts09012011.pdf>

Project Access Dental

In June 2011, the Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access was awarded grant funding from the Washington Dental Service Foundation to establish Whatcom Project Access Dental (WPAD).

WPAD is a partnership between the Mt. Baker District Dental Society and the Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA). The program links volunteer dentists with low income, uninsured Whatcom County residents needing restorative dental care.

Participating dentists see patients in their offices during regular business hours, and each dentist determines the number of WPAD patients they will see.

WPAD complements the Donated Adult Dental (DAD) program at Interfaith Community Health Center by providing another way for dentists to volunteer their services. WAHA and Interfaith are coordinating the recruitment efforts to benefit both programs.

With the help of an advisory committee, WAHA has developed a WPAD application and enrollment process. WAHA screens patients to determine financial eligibility, schedules initial appointments with donating dentists on a rotating basis, and provides care coordination for patients to assure appropriate use of dental services.

To be eligible for WPAD, individuals must be a resident of Whatcom County, have no dental insurance, be low-income and have limited assets. People can apply for WPAD without a referral from another agency.

Patients are required to complete an application and pay a program fee of up to \$30 (sliding scale based on income) to help cover the cost of coordinating the program.

WPAD only accepts people who need a restorative dental service, such as fillings. If people need preventive care or have an emergent need, WAHA will help them find other community resources.

Interested clients should contact WAHA at 788-6594. For program details or information about being a participating dentist, please contact Lara Welker, WAHA Program Manager, at 788-6588 or lrwelker@hinet.org.

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

The Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access is now coordinating ABCD in Whatcom County.

Starting July 2011, the Health Care Authority is providing 2 years of funding to ABCD programs across the state. In Whatcom County, these funds are going to WAHA to continue outreach, enrollment, and education for families, training and recruitment for dentists, and to establish new linkages with medical providers.

Clients can contact the main WAHA line at 788-6594. For program information, contact Lara Welker, WAHA Program Manager, at 788-6588 or lrwelker@hinet.org.