

# MISSISSIPPI

## *Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Care for Children: Overview*

### Eligibility and Dental Benefits

Mississippi's Medicaid program was expanded through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to include children in the following categories:

- Birth to age one from families with income up to 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL),
- Ages one to six from families with income up to 133% of the FPL, and
- Ages six through 18 from families with income at or below 100% of the FPL.<sup>1</sup>

These children, and those ages 19 to 21 who meet the state's eligibility requirements,<sup>2</sup> receive comprehensive health and dental services, as required under Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) service.<sup>3</sup> Effective as of May 2002, children above age 18 have a \$3 per dental visit copayment.<sup>4</sup>

Mississippi's separate SCHIP program, called the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), provides coverage equivalent to the benefit package offered under the State and Public Employer's Health Insurance Plan, enhanced by dental services and other benefits. CHIP covers children to age 19 from families with income up to 200% of the FPL who are not eligible for Medicaid and are without other health insurance. Families with income between 151-175% of the FPL have a copayment of \$5 per outpatient physician's office visit, \$15 per ER visit and a \$800 out-of-pocket maximum; those with incomes between 176- 200% of the FPL pay \$5 per physician's office visit, \$15 per ER visit and a \$950 out-of-pocket maximum.<sup>5</sup>

Effective January 2002, the CHIP dental benefit, which previously had covered basic preventive and diagnostic services and a few dental procedures,<sup>6</sup> was expanded to cover additional restorative, endodontic, and periodontic services, such as crowns, simple extractions, pulpotomies, pulpectomies, root canals, sealants, composite and amalgam

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<sup>1</sup> Mississippi Title XXI state program: Fact sheet. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Available at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/schip/factsheets/chpfms.pdf>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Information about Medicaid eligibility for individuals above age 19 may be obtained from the Mississippi Division of Medicaid regional offices. Also see Medicaid Eligibility Guidelines and Application Forms Internet page. Available at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. Accessed September 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Services for Medicaid Beneficiaries, Programs, EPSDT. Division of Medicaid. Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi. Available At: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Copayments. Division of Medicaid, Office of the Governor. Available at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. Accessed May 2004

<sup>5</sup> Mississippi Title XXI state program: Fact sheet. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> The Urban Institute. Does SCHIP spell better dental care access for children? An early look at new initiatives. Occasional Paper #50, July 2001. Available at: <http://newfederalism.urban.org/html/occa50.html>. Accessed June 2004.

fillings, and space maintainers.<sup>7 8</sup> The CHIP dental benefit is limited to a maximum of \$1,500 per patient per year.

### Dental Administrative and Organizational Structure

The Medicaid program is administered by the Division of Medicaid, Office of the Governor.<sup>9 10</sup> In January 2002, the division began a contract with a fiscal agent, ACS, to provide claims processing services and maintain staff to support providers and beneficiaries. Dental services are delivered on a fee-for-service basis by dentists enrolled with the state.

Mississippi's CHIP is administered jointly by the Division of Medicaid, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Finance and Administration. The Division of Medicaid is responsible for receiving and disbursing funds, outreach and communication activities, reporting, and overall management of the program. The Division of Medicaid contracts with the Department of Human Services to determine beneficiary eligibility. Health care services, including dental services for CHIP beneficiaries are provided by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi.<sup>11</sup> In order to participate in CHIP, dentists must agree to accept the rates offered by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi.<sup>12</sup>

### Enrolled Children under Age 21 Receiving an Annual Medicaid Dental Visit

CMS 416 lines 12a/ and 1	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 <sup>13</sup>	2003
Number with any Dental Visit	50,244	66,629	77,305	99,073	97,435	118,424
Number Enrolled	307,454	318,637	349,058	413,995	434,327	453,186

### Pediatric Medicaid Dental Reimbursement

The following table provides Mississippi's 2004 Medicaid program dental fees for 15 common pediatric dental services.

<sup>7</sup> Dental benefits under CHIP: A new law gives Mississippi's children a reason to Smile. Mississippi Health Advocacy Program. Available at: [http://www.mhap.org/dental\\_benefits.html](http://www.mhap.org/dental_benefits.html). Accessed June 2004.

<sup>8</sup> H.B. No. 444: Mississippi Children's Health Care Act; delete repealed and allow coverage of certain dental services. Mississippi Legislature. Available at: <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2001/html/cr/HB0444cr.htm>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>9</sup> Division of Medicaid, Office of the Governor State of Mississippi. Available at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>10</sup> The state of Mississippi 1932(a) state plan option for managed care: Fact sheet. Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services. Available at: <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/1932a/ms1932fs.asp>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>11</sup> Children's Health Insurance Program. Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration. Available at: <http://www.dfa.state.ms.us/insurance/chip/chip.html>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>12</sup> Dental benefits under CHIP. Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Mosca N. Written personal communication to D. Schneider. Data cells for 2002 and 2003 provided. August 29, 2004.

## Updated Fees for 2004

Procedure Code (CDT)	Procedure Description	2004 Medicaid Fee (\$)
<b>Diagnostic</b>		
D0120	Periodic Oral Exam	Not Covered
D0110/D0150	Initial/Comprehensive Oral Exam	Discontinued/\$44.93
D0210	Complete X-rays, with Bitewings	\$54.88
D0272	Bitewing X-rays – 2 Films	\$16.26
D0330	Panoramic X-ray Film	\$54.88
<b>Preventive</b>		
D1120	Prophylaxis (cleaning)-Child	\$34.54
D1203	Topical Fluoride (excluding prophylaxis).	Not Covered
D1351	Dental Sealant	\$22.26
<b>Restorative</b>		
D2150	Amalgam, 2 surfaces, permanent tooth	\$41.57
D2331	Resin , 2 surfaces, anterior tooth	\$66.51
D2751	Crown, porcelain fused to base metal	Not Covered
D2930	Prefabricated Steel Crown, primary tooth	\$78.99
<b>Endodontics</b>		
D3220	Removal of tooth pulp	\$27.01
D3310	Anterior Endodontic Therapy	\$178.75
<b>Oral Surgery</b>		
D7110	Extraction, single tooth	Discontinued
D7140	Extraction, erupted tooth or exposed root	\$41.25

### *State Innovations Affecting Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Programs*

#### Infrastructure Developments

In 2000, the Division of Medicaid convened a team of representatives from the Mississippi Department of Health and the Mississippi Dental Association to form a Medicaid Advisory Panel. The purpose of the panel (as of June 2003, it no longer meets) was to identify barriers to access and dentist participation in Medicaid. A team of representatives of key state stakeholder agencies also participated in a National Governors Association Oral Health Policy Academy in October 2001.<sup>14</sup> The team's report included recommendations for developing a state dental policy infrastructure, restructuring dental reimbursement in the Medicaid program, enhancing the dental workforce, and improving patient education and outreach. In the summer of 2002, the governor appointed a multidisciplinary Governor's Healthcare Commission, including a dental representative, to address Medicaid policy in light of the state's budget crises. The commission's report was delivered in July 2002 and emphasized prevention programs.<sup>15</sup>

In November 2002, the governor created an Oral Health Task Force to focus on prevention, health education, and the availability and affordability of quality oral health

<sup>14</sup> Improving oral health access and outcomes for children: A response to the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices request for Applications. September 15, 2000. (Information about NGA's Oral Health Policy Academy is available at: [http://www.nga.org/center/divisions/1,1188,C\\_ISSUE\\_BRIEF^D\\_3915.00.html](http://www.nga.org/center/divisions/1,1188,C_ISSUE_BRIEF^D_3915.00.html).) Accessed June 2004.

<sup>15</sup> Strengthening the Medicaid program; issues and concerns. Governor's Healthcare Commission Recommendations. July 2004.

care for Mississippi's children.<sup>16</sup> The task force is chaired by the State Health Officer and includes health care professionals and public officials from the Medicaid program and CHIP. The group began meeting quarterly in January 2003 and is charged with providing an annual report to the governor on the state's oral health status and making recommendations.<sup>17</sup> In August 2004, the task force continues to meet and includes a staff member from the office of the recently elected Governor. The task force is writing a state oral health plan that is expected to be completed by the end of the year and is working to develop a public information campaign about the oral health plan for use during National Children's Dental Health Month and coinciding with the American Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile Day, 2005.

In October 2002, the Department of Health hired a full-time dental director who focuses on public education about oral health issues and on prevention initiatives. The Department of Health also began Adopt-A-School—a school-linked sealant initiative with the goal of recruiting community dentists to “adopt” their local elementary second-grade class and place sealants on the children's permanent first molar teeth. This program is administered by contract with the School of Nursing at the University of Mississippi through its “Mercy Delta Health Express,” which provides a fully-equipped mobile van for use by the dental providers to place sealants; the program is offered only to school districts in nine counties in the Mississippi Delta. Results of a state survey of the oral health of third-grade children also were reported in 2002.<sup>18</sup>

The Division of Medicaid provided information in 2001 on activities recently undertaken to improve oral health access for children. These activities, as updated in 2004,<sup>19</sup> are summarized in the following sections:<sup>20</sup>

#### Administrative Policies and Procedures

- Claims may be submitted electronically, and an instruction manual on electronic submission specifically for dentists is available on the Internet.<sup>21</sup> Electronic submission and filing of claims by dentists have increased, and turnaround time for payment of clean electronic and paper claims is generally one week.
- ADA standard codes and claims forms have been accepted for reimbursement since January 2002. The utilization of all codes is being reviewed; a code update

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<sup>16</sup> Oral Health Task Force and Public Health Director to focus on children's oral health: News and information. November 19, 2002. Governor Ronnie Musgrove.

<sup>17</sup> Mosca N. Written personal communication to D. Schneider. January 30, 2003.

<sup>18</sup> Silberman S, Mosca, N, Eklund N, Stillely K. Measurement of three oral health parameters in Mississippi third graders. Abstr #35220. Am Pub Health Assoc 130th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 11, 2002. Available at: [http://apha.confex.com/apha/130am/techprogram/paper\\_35220.htm](http://apha.confex.com/apha/130am/techprogram/paper_35220.htm). Accessed June 2004.

<sup>19</sup> Mosca N. August 29, 2004. Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Lewis-Payton R. Division of Medicaid, Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi. May 17, 2001. (Mississippi's response to CMS's Center for Medicaid and State Operations Director's letter of January 18, 2001, #01-010, Access of low-income children to necessary dental services. Director's letter is available at: <http://cms.gov/states/letters/smd118a1.pdf>.) Accessed June 2004.

<sup>21</sup> ECS for dental billers. Mississippi Division of Medicaid. Available at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. (Click on ECS manuals, then dental ESC manual.) Accessed June 2004.

- will occur in compliance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements by October 2003.
- Beneficiary eligibility may be confirmed through an eligibility swipe card device, by calling the audio voice response system, or by contacting the ACS fiscal agent's correspondence unit.<sup>22</sup> Eligibility also may be confirmed through a web portal.<sup>23</sup>
  - Dental providers, as independent contractors of the state, may participate in the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust, which works like a 410K plan in which participants can "defer" or contribute their Medicaid reimbursements up to federally established limits.<sup>24</sup> The Plan also has an option by which dentists may defer reimbursements up to the established limit for the year and then switch back to receiving Medicaid reimbursement payments. (See Results Section, below).

### Education, Communication, and Patient Care Facilitation

- Through its fiscal agent, ACS, dentist support and information on billing, claims, payment, and electronic claims submission is available by telephone during the work week.<sup>25</sup>
- The Division of Medicaid Internet home page has links to the dental provider manual, fee schedule, provider enrollment forms and on-line enrollment, and other materials.<sup>26</sup>
- An Internet provider search program with a map feature is available for beneficiaries seeking to identify a participating Medicaid dentist<sup>27</sup>

### Financing and Reimbursement

- Legislation in 1999 increased fees for all Medicaid dental services and dental surgical services by 60% of the amount of the reimbursement rate in effect on June 30, 1999. Before 1999, the last significant prior increase was a 20% increase in 1994.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Information for Medicaid providers. Division of Medicaid. Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi. Available at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>23</sup> Welcome to the Mississippi Envision Web Portal. Division of Medicaid. Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi. Available at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. (Click on Medicaid Provider Information) Accessed June 2004.

<sup>24</sup> Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust. Available at: <http://www6.ingretirementplans.com/SponsorExtranet/MDCPT/YourPlanHighlights/index.html>. Accessed May 2004.

<sup>25</sup> Mississippi Medicaid. ACS EDI Gateway Services. Available at: [http://www.acs-gcro.com/Medicaid\\_Accounts/Mississippi\\_Medicaid/mississippi\\_medicaid.htm](http://www.acs-gcro.com/Medicaid_Accounts/Mississippi_Medicaid/mississippi_medicaid.htm). Accessed June 2004.

<sup>26</sup> Home page (also click on Information for Medicaid providers). Division of Medicaid. Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi. Available at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>27</sup> Provider Locator. Division of Medicaid. Office of the Governor, State of Mississippi. Available at: <http://www.dom.state.ms.us/>. Accessed June 2004.

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.ada.org/prof/govt/dentistryworks/med-improve.html>. Accessed June 2003. (Link no longer active.)

- Effective May 2002, a rate reduction of 5% was implemented for all Medicaid providers,<sup>29</sup> concurrent with a requirement that a copayment of \$3 per visit is to be paid to the dentist by Medicaid beneficiaries over the age of 18. (Legislation in 2002 also eliminated dental services for pregnant women over the age of 21).<sup>30</sup>
- No additional changes in Medicaid reimbursement rates have occurred since May 2002.
- For CHIP, dentists must agree to accept the rates set by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, in collaboration with the Mississippi Dental Association and established in comparison to commercial market fees. Dentists must agree not to “balance-bill” the beneficiary (i.e., if the Blue Cross & Blue Shield rate for reimbursement is lower than the fee the dentist ordinarily charges for a given procedure, the dentist cannot charge the patient for the remainder balance).
- The reimbursement rates for CHIP dental services are proprietary to the insurer, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. When rates were examined in 2001 during the implementation of the CHIP dental network and compared to Medicaid rates, it was noted that the maximum allowable charge schedule for CHIP dental services were mostly higher than Medicaid, but there were a few that were lower. The difference ranged from less than a dollar to over \$100 for some of the higher priced procedures.

### Reported Results

- Between 1999 and 2002 the number of dental providers who billed the Mississippi Medicaid program remained essentially static, at about 430 dentists.<sup>31</sup> However, in calendar year 2003, 568 dentists were reported to have filed a Medicaid claim.
- One hundred of the 568 participating dentists in calendar year 2003 had contributed to the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust during the year.<sup>32</sup>
- As of October 2003, there were 584 dentists in 726 locations participating in the CHIP dental network.
- In calendar year 2002, 54 percent of CHIP enrollees (who met HEDIS reporting criteria) had a dental visit. By age group, the rates were:
 

Ages 4-6	56%
Ages 7-10	59%
Ages 11-14	53%
Ages 15-18	47%

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<sup>29</sup> Provider Bulletin. Special Issues. Medicaid Changes. Division of Medicaid. Available at: [ftp://192.68.113.14/pdf/bulletins/200203\\_Special\\_%20Bulletin\\_HB1200.pdf](ftp://192.68.113.14/pdf/bulletins/200203_Special_%20Bulletin_HB1200.pdf). Accessed June 2004.

<sup>30</sup> Mosca N. Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Crowder A. Written personal communication to D. Schneider. March 10, 2003.

<sup>32</sup> Siegal M. Written communication noting information provided by Mississippi Division of Medicaid. August 30, 2004.