

The Journal of the Michigan Dental Association

Volume 106 | Number 4

Article 7

4-1-2024

Governmental Affairs Update: Dental Medicaid

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Recommended Citation

Katibai, Neema JD (2024) "Governmental Affairs Update: Dental Medicaid," *The Journal of the Michigan Dental Association*: Vol. 106: No. 4, Article 7.

Available at: <https://commons.ada.org/journalmichigandentalassociation/vol106/iss4/7>

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DENTAL MEDICAID

MDA Leads Multi-Partner Effort to Improve Medicaid Anesthesia Services Reimbursement

Over the past few years, the Michigan Legislature has shown a commitment to improving Medicaid dental benefits. This has included investing funds to significantly increase the facility fee paid by Medicaid for dental procedures requiring operating room access and improving adult dental Medicaid benefits by paying average commercial reimbursement rates for an expanded array of services

Over the last year, more than 200 new dentists have enrolled to accept Medicaid, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is actively recruiting more providers. However, the improved facility fees paid by Medicaid, particularly to hospitals, has not achieved the desired impact of improving access to care. This is due in large part to Medicaid's anesthesia services reimbursement, which the MDA has advocated to increase for the last several years. Currently, Medicaid reimburses anesthesiologists at approximately 12% of the average commercial reimbursement, 25% of the state-mandated workers' compensation reimbursement, and 50% of the Medicare reimbursement.

This year, the MDA has requested a \$44.7 million investment of state funds, which would bring in more than \$140 million of federal funds into Michigan's Medicaid program, to increase the Medicaid anesthesia

services reimbursement to approximately 85% of the commercial rate. This request has the support of the Michigan Society of Anesthesiologists, Michigan State Medical Society, Michigan Osteopathic Association, and Michigan Council on Dental Specialties.

Importantly, while the MDA and other groups have advocated for an increase to this reimbursement previously with limited success, this is the first request that has been coordinated across a coalition of impacted providers. The MDA has led the effort to develop this request, pull together this coalition, and advocate with key decision-makers in the state budget process. As opportunities arise for the public to provide comments on the state budget, we will be relying on our network of grassroots advocates to engage with their legislators to support our advocacy.

If you haven't done so already, please text "MDA" to 52886 to sign up for MDA text alerts so you can make your voice heard in the legislative process!

*Compiled by MDA legislative staff.
Questions? Contact the MDA's Bill Sullivan, JD, at bsullivan@michigandental.org.*



Sullivan



Meet with Schuette — MDA member Dr. Jeff Dulude (left) met with state Rep. Bill G. Schuette (center) and Luke Derheim, a staffer from Schuette's office, at a public office hour at Creation Coffee in Midland on Monday, Feb. 26. Thanks, Dr. Dulude, for being a legislative advocate for the MDA!



Coffee hour — Dr. Gary Scott (left) and Dr. John Deppen (right) attended a coffee hour hosted by state Rep. Rachelle Smit (center) at the Allegan District Library on Saturday, Feb. 24. The MDA-member docs reported that Smit was very receptive to their suggestions and input. Great grassroots advocacy!