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To: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org  
Subject: Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS  
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

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### Dental Champions Corner

Dental Champions  
get ready for the

## New Report on ER Usage

This week the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) released a report on 2009 visits to emergency rooms for dental-related issues. Emergency rooms are often the place people visit when they experience dental pain, but emergency rooms can only provide antibiotics and pain medication. They are unable to treat the cause of the dental pain.

The HCUP report found that between 2006 and 2009, the number of emergency room visits for dental pain increased 16% nationwide. Nationally, over 936,000 people visited emergency rooms with dental pain in 2009. Our state accounts for about 1% of the nation's population, but our dental-related emergency room visits in that time period accounted for 2% of the total visits.

Working-age people made over 60% of the dental-related ER visits, according to HCUP. The majority of the people with dental pain seeking emergency room services were on Medicaid, and another 42% were uninsured. As most Medicaid programs, including Kansas' Medicaid program, do not cover dental treatment for adults, it is easy to see that adults who are on Medicaid or who are uninsured often are not able to find a way to get the dental treatment they need in the most appropriate setting.

2013 Oral Health  
Kansas Conference  
and Dental  
Champions  
Reception  
Wednesday  
November 6th and  
Dental Champions  
Session Thursday  
November 7th in  
Johnson County!

## **SAVE THE DATE**

2013 Oral Health  
Kansas Conference  
will be held in  
Johnson County  
November 7th &  
8th, 2013

## **Did You Know?**

Contrary to  
popular belief,  
George  
Washington's  
famous dentures  
weren't made from  
wood. His four  
pairs of custom  
chompers were  
crafted from gold,  
ivory, lead and a  
mixture of human,  
donkey and  
hippopotamus  
teeth  
[CLICK HERE](#)

The full HCUP report is available [here](#).



## **Plans to Implement KanCare Continue**

State officials continue making plans to launch KanCare on January 1, 2013. KanCare is the new name for the Kansas Medicaid program and represents a transition to all Medicaid services being provided through managed care. Three managed care organizations (MCOs) have been selected to provide Medicaid services in Kansas through KanCare.

This month KanCare enrollment packets were mailed to all Medicaid beneficiaries. A copy of the enrollment packet is available [here](#). All Medicaid beneficiaries were assigned to one of the three MCOs. They have the chance to change MCOs if they wish between now and early 2013. Details about the MCO each person has been assigned to will be sent to beneficiaries in December in order to help them understand their options. Each of the MCOs will offer preventive dental benefits for adults, which marks the first time all adults on Medicaid will have access to preventive dental services. Details about the preventive dental services available are in the following chart.

Amerigroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 cleanings and exams annually</li> <li>• Scaling and polishing procedures to remove coronal plaque, calculus, and stains</li> <li>• <u>Teeth whitening once every five years for discoloration due to genetics, disease, or root damage.</u> Discoloration of teeth due to coffee, tea, cola or cigarettes <u>will not be covered.</u></li> </ul>
Sunflower Health Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 cleanings annually</li> <li>• 2 dental exams annually</li> </ul>
United Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 cleaning annually</li> <li>• 1 annual exam</li> <li>• 1 annual x-ray</li> </ul>

The number of providers that have contracted with each of the MCOs has been released. As of November 16, 2012, Amerigroup had contracted with 270 dental providers, and Sunflower Health Plan and United Healthcare each had contracted with 238 dental providers. By way of comparison, there are 645 dental providers currently enrolled in the Kansas Medicaid program. Details, including the average distance to each provider, are included on this November 16 network access [summary](#):

The latest issue of the KanCare newsletter is available on the Readiness activities [webpage](#).

It includes an announcement that documents related to the state's readiness planning are now available on their KanCare [webpage](#).

Provider directories for each MCO are available on their websites. They are updated as more providers enroll with each MCO.

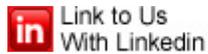
- [Amerigroup](#)
- [Sunflower](#)
- [United Healthcare](#)

Details about upcoming training for providers are available on each MCO's website:

- Amerigroup's provider training details are on this [website](#).
- Sunflower's provider training details are on this [website](#).

- United Healthcare's specific dental provider training is on page 9 of this [document](#).

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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