

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

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2020 Medicaid Rate Increase Goes Into Effect

Oral Health Kansas partnered with the Kansas Dental Association to advocate for a Medicaid dental rate increase in both 2019 and 2020. The 2020 rate increase has been on hold for several months, but it became effective in late November. The increase is retroactive to July 17, and claims for services provided since July 17 should automatically receive the

difference in the rates from the appropriate KanCare Managed Care Organization. The rates that have been increased include comprehensive and periodic oral evaluations, adult and child cleanings, fluoride applications, sealants, fillings, and crowns. The complete list is in this [KanCare Provider Bulletin](#).

We advocated for several additional services that were not included in the final rate increase, such as the code for a hospital call, which pays a portion of the time dental providers spend while providing care in hospital settings. Most of the services included in the 2020 rate increase also saw an increase in 2019. We are hopeful that the cumulative effect of two increases will be sufficient to attract more dental offices to be Kansas Medicaid providers. Contact us at info@oralhealthkansas.org with any questions. We will try to answer questions about the increase or direct questions to the appropriate person or organization.



Thank You Public Health Workers

We are rounding the end of the year and wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of the public health workers for their long hours of taking care of our community during the COVID19 pandemic. Especially during the holiday season, you are continuing to selflessly put in long work days to keep Kansas residents safe and healthy. We are deeply grateful and thank you for your service!



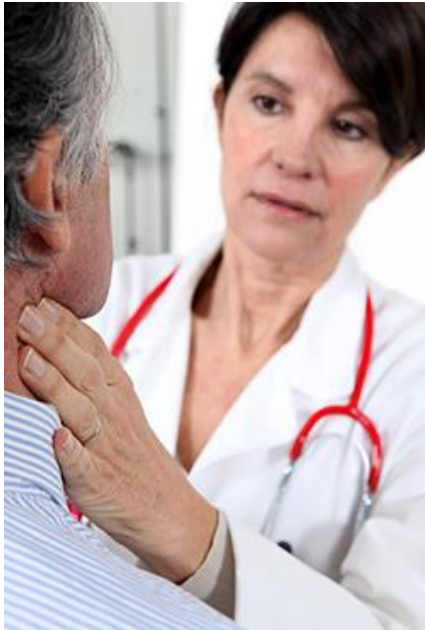
How Value Based Care Can Help During COVID 19

A [recent white paper](#) from the Dentaquest Partnership and the National Association of Community Health Centers shares how moving to a value-based care system can help Federally Qualified Health Center's (FQHC) meet the needs of patients during the pandemic, and address financial challenges clinics face. FQHC

patients are significantly more likely than dental patients in other settings to have a chronic condition. In a value-based payment environment, providers are paid to care for a population with incentives for demonstrating value by preventing dental disease and keeping patients healthy rather than relying on a payment model that prioritizes volume of services provided. Prospective payments can ensure a steady revenue stream for the patient base even if there are fluctuations in care pathways driven by risk status or by disruptions to

practice operations. Value-based care also encourages and rewards interprofessional practice while tracking health outcomes and patient satisfaction.

This story is taken from a story recently published by [Virginia Health Catalyst](#).



Don't Miss The Open Enrollment Deadline

Open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace opened up November 1 and the December 15 deadline is fast approaching! If you do not sign up for health insurance during the open enrollment, you will not be able to get 2021 coverage unless you qualify for a [Special Enrollment Period](#).

Choosing dental coverage is also an important task when choosing health insurance. [Here is a webinar](#) to watch for an in-depth discussion of the issues most important to be aware of when helping consumers select dental plans, such as learning how dental coverage is available in the marketplace, the differences between stand-alone dental plans and dental coverage as part of a qualified health plan, and an

explanation of factors that families should understand before purchasing a plan.



Governor Laura Kelly and KDHE Secretary Dr. Lee Norman were both honored with awards at the Kansas Public Health Association's annual meeting on November 19th. Governor Laura Kelly was awarded



as KPHA's Public Health Policy Maker of the year, while Secretary Norman received KPHA's Presidential Award.

During the COVID pandemic, Governor Kelly and Secretary Norman have spent countless hours working to keep Kansans safe and healthy. Prior to Kelly's term as Governor, she served on the Public Health and Welfare Committee during her many years in the Kansas

Senate. Throughout the pandemic, Dr. Norman has been instrumental in keeping Kansans up to date on COVID news and information as well as using his sense of humor when compared to Colonel Sanders.



Sugary Drink Display Sanitation

Out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending use of the Sugary Drink Display until further notice.



During this time, hand washing

and social distancing is on everyone's mind. We want everyone to

have the comfort of knowing we sanitize our sugary drink displays. They are wiped down and cleaned off after they have been returned.

Follow Us



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