

Spokane's Newest ABCD Dentists

The following dentists are now participating in the ABCD program and are eligible for the ABCD enhanced fees. We welcome them in caring for Spokane's youngsters!

- Dr. Ryan Allen
- Dr. Thomas Dance
- Dr. Kirk Fuhriman
- Dr. Terry Klise
- Dr. Matthew McMillan
- Dr. Ron Montano
- Dr. Todd Weller
- Dr. Bret Woodward

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ProviderOne COUNTDOWN

What is ProviderOne?

DSHS's new payment processing system – changing to a modern, more efficient system.

When will it begin?

It is set to launch in **December 2008**.

Why the change?

Washington's current Medicaid Management System (MMIS) was built using 1970's technology. Over the years, the health care business has become more complex, requiring many system modifications for each policy, program or service initiative. In many cases, MMIS has been unable to adapt, resulting in inefficient manual work-arounds.

What changes will it bring?

- ◆ Providers may need to modify their billing systems and operational processes.
- ◆ The paper coupon issued each month to eligible households will be replaced with a permanent plastic Services Card for each client. If you photocopy the coupon as proof of eligibility, you will need to use another method to check eligibility. These free and low cost options will be reported in time.
- ◆ The PIC used for billing today will be replaced with a unique ProviderOne Client ID number.
- ◆ Providers who bill using paper or electronically will be required to bill DSHS using a National Provider Identifier (NPI) instead of the current Medicaid billing number when ProviderOne goes live.
- ◆ The WAMedWeb, which enables providers to check claim status, submit claims, check client eligibility and view prior Remittance Advice via the web, will be replaced by the ProviderOne Self-Service Portal. It will have similar features and screens, making the transition easier for providers using the WAMedWeb today.

- ◆ For providers who don't use Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), Remittance Advice will be mailed separately from payments.
- ◆ Paper forms will be scanned into ProviderOne using new technology. Forms submitted with handwritten entries cannot be scanned. These forms will be available on the DSHS website so providers can type entries prior to submitting.

Updated instructions and training to guide providers through billing in ProviderOne are being prepared. Detailed information on these changes and availability of tools will be announced in future newsletters. DSHS is committed to support you throughout the readiness activities so that together we can bring ProviderOne on-line with uninterrupted payments to providers.

THANK YOU!

The ABCD Program at Spokane Regional Health District would like to again say "Thank You" to the private practice dental office who donated \$30,000, thus allowing staff to maintain full-time status for 2008. Although the single donor would like to remain anonymous, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the donor for this most generous contribution. These funds will allow the ABCD Program to maintain community outreach at its current level, linking children to dental care.

Also, "Thank you" to those providing services to ABCD children and to our ABCD Champions, Dr. Dale Ruemping and D. Jared Evans, who provide trainings which certify dentists to become ABCD providers. Also, thank you to Dr. Andrew Garabedian who provides ABCD "E" training in the medical office setting.

Sincerely,
ABCD Dental Program
Spokane Regional Health District



Although only 3 months old, little Anjali Turner is registered in ABCD and will visit her ABCD dentist as soon as her first tooth appears. Open wide for the fluoride varnish, Anjali!

First Dental Visit

The **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** and the **American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)** both recommend having the first checkup by the time your child turns one year. It won't last long – the dentist can quickly spot early signs of plaque buildup and decay. (S)he'll also make sure the teeth, mouth, throat, and airways are developing properly.

ABCD counsels parents at the time of their child's enrollment to take their little one into the dentist "with the first tooth" or by age one.

ABCD Dentists will spend time providing oral health education for parents, applying fluoride varnish to the little teeth already in place, answering questions parents might have, and discussing your child's dental issues (such as sore gums or the rate at which teeth are coming in).

ABCD is a great preventive program. Once children are enrolled, parents should take them to the dentist immediately upon tooth eruption and continue going regularly. There is never a charge for services to the parent: the DSHS medical coupon pays 100%.

Many dental offices also accept older siblings with DSHS coverage as well.

THIS AND THAT....

Why Teeth Can Be Sensitive

Tooth sensitivity is one of the most common complaints among dental patients, according to the American Association of General Dentistry. Tooth sensitivity is caused by the movement of fluid within tiny tubes located in the dentin (the layer of tissue found beneath the hard enamel that contains the inner pulp), which results in nerve irritation. When the hard enamel is worn down or gums have receded, causing the tiny tube surfaces to be exposed, pain can be caused by eating or drinking food or hot or cold beverages, touching the teeth or exposing them to cold.

Tooth sensitivity can be reduced as follows:

- ◆ Use a desensitizing toothpaste.
- ◆ Your dentist can apply sealants and other desensitizing and filling materials, including fluoride.
- ◆ Decrease your intake of acid-producing foods.
- ◆ Tartar-control toothpaste will sometimes cause teeth to be sensitive, as well as drinking soda throughout the day – so these habits should be avoided.
- ◆ Avoid using hard-bristled toothbrushes and brushing too hard, which can wear down tooth surfaces and expose sensitive spots.

Dental Erosion In Children

USA Today interviewed AAPD President Dr. Keith R. Morley on the subject of dental erosion. An unpublished study of 900 children ranging in age from 10–14 years revealed that 30 percent of the participants showed signs of dental erosion due to the large amounts of citrus drinks and power drinks consumed. Even if the problem is not that common, it is cause for concern, Morley said.

Bottled Water

For over five decades, the American Dental Association has continuously endorsed the fluoridation of community

water supplies and the use of fluoride-containing products as safe and effective measures for preventing tooth decay.

The majority of bottled waters on the market do not contain optimal levels (0.7-1.2ppm) of fluoride. And some types of home water treatment systems can reduce the fluoride levels in water supplies, potentially decreasing the decay-preventive effects of optimally fluoridated water.

Knocked Out Tooth

Hold the tooth by the crown and rinse off the root in water, only if it's dirty. Do not scrub it or remove any attached tissue fragments. If possible, gently insert and hold the tooth in its socket. If that isn't possible, put the tooth in a cup of milk and get to the dentist as quickly as possible. Remember to take the tooth with you! (*An ADA reminder*)

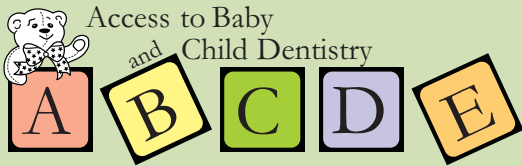
Oral Piercings

From hairstyles to clothing, tattoos to jewelry, today's youth are making a fashion statement. But those who want to look cool with oral piercings may be looking to their dentists and physicians for help afterwards.

Common symptoms after oral piercings include pain, swelling, infection, increased flow of saliva, and injuries to the gum tissue. If a blood vessel is in the way of the needle during the piercing, severe and difficult-to-control bleeding can result. For some, chipped or cracked teeth, blood poisoning or even blood clots can occur. For many, the swelling of the tongue is a common side effect. In extreme cases, a severely swollen tongue can actually close off the airway and prevent breathing.

The Difference Between A DDS and a DMD

The DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) and DMD (Doctor of Dental Medicine) are the same degrees. The difference is a matter of semantics. The majority of dental schools award the DDS degree. However, some award the DMD degree. The education and degree are the same.



A New Resource for Families

ParentHelp123 can connect families with resources they may need, including food and health resources. In three easy steps a family can find out if they may qualify for:

- ◆ Basic food (food stamps)
- ◆ First Steps (Maternity Medicaid)
- ◆ Children’s Health Insurance Program
- ◆ Basic Health
- ◆ Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

It also allows to search for possible additional services in the community, such as child care, food banks, breastfeeding support, and immunization clinics.

Go to: www.ParentHelp123.org or call the Family Food Hotline at 1-888-436-6392.

Why Are Baby Cavities On The Rise?

Parents.com advances the thought that just because your child’s “pearly whites” will wind up with the Tooth Fairy one day doesn’t mean you should treat them like temps. Healthy baby teeth are essential for helping kids learn to chew, speak clearly, and smile with confidence, and for ensuring that their permanent teeth come in properly.

Although parents pay close attention to a toddler’s every snuffle, they often overlook her oral health. Bad idea. Dental disease is the single most common childhood disease, and a 2007 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed that cavities among young kids are on the rise; 28% have cavities in their baby teeth. For your child, that could mean a trip to the dentist for drilling and filling. The good news: Tooth decay is almost always totally preventable – as long as parents take good care of their kids’ baby teeth.

Preventing Dental Disease in Physicians’ Offices: New Medicaid Reimbursements Available

Dental disease is on the rise for children in Washington. Primary care medical providers are key to early prevention of dental disease. Primary care medical involvement is important since many children see a physician up to eight times for well-child care before their typical first visit to a dentist. During well-child visits, primary care providers can screen for dental disease, assess risk for decay, deliver parent education, apply fluoride varnish to prevent or reverse early decay, and refer young children for dental care if needed.

The good news is that certified primary care medical providers can now receive enhanced reimbursements for providing dental disease prevention services to Medicaid-enrolled children through age five.

Previously, reimbursements were provided only for fluoride varnish applications. Medicaid will now reimburse certified primary care medical providers for conducting periodic oral evaluations and educating parents about good oral health practices.

Dental disease is the most common chronic disease of early childhood. A child whose mouth is hurting can’t sleep, and may experience delayed speech development, have difficulty paying attention in school, and be at risk for further health problems. Prevention and early treatment of children’s dental disease needs to be a priority.

Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and Washington Dental Service Foundation (WDSF) offer a 1½ hour in-office CME workshop/training. This training certifies providers to receive a substantial increase in Medicaid reimbursement for delivering dental disease prevention services. Offices trained by SRHD’s Access to Baby and Child Dentistry “Expanded” (ABCD “E”) Program and/or WDSF have automatically been determined as certified providers. To learn more or to schedule a training or refresher course, email iovnicek@spokanecounty.org or call (509) 324-1550.

Thank you for your interest in oral health and your help in delivering the message that good oral health is an important part of overall health.

Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursements and Procedure Codes Through Age 5:

Fluoride Varnish (D1203)	\$13.66*
Family and Oral Health Education (D9999)	\$27.58
<u>Periodic Oral Evaluation (D0120)</u>	<u>\$29.46</u>
Total	\$70.70

*Note: With implementation of the Provider One system, targeted for 2009, Fluoride Varnish (D1203) will be reimbursed at an enhanced rate of \$22.25.

TOOTH TRIVIA

- ◆ Every March 19th the swallows come back to Capistrano after wintering in Argentina. Like all modern birds, they have no teeth. They “chew” their food by swallowing bits of gravel.
- ◆ Lucy Hobbs Taylor was the first woman in the US to become a certified dentist in 1867.
- ◆ Did you know a cat’s jaw cannot move sideways?
- ◆ If under 35 years of age, most tooth loss is due to athletic-caused trauma, fights or accidents. If over 35, the cause is advanced gum disease.
- ◆ George Washington had one tooth at the time of his inauguration. He also had six white horses and ordered his staff to brush the horses' teeth every morning.
- ◆ One in every 2,000 babies is born with a tooth.
- ◆ Sharks eat all day long, never brush or floss, and never get a cavity.
- ◆ The teeth of a growing fetus begin to develop around the third month of pregnancy, according to the American Dental Association.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that for every child under 18 years old without medical insurance, there are at least two children without dental insurance?

...that for every adult 18 years or older without medical insurance, there are three without dental insurance.

...Students miss more than 51 million hours per year because of dental problems or related conditions. Dental pain can distract students, cause their schoolwork to suffer or even lead to absences.

~ Surgeon General’s Statement of Oral Health in America, 2000, p. 33



Oral Health Program
1101 West College Avenue, Room 200
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 324-1478

509.324.1478 | TEL
509.324.3615 | FAX
509.324.1464 | TDD
www.SRHD.org • www.smileabcd.org