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ASDA Advisor

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ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF DENTISTS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Medicaid Update

2007 FEE INCREASE

As provided in the Consent Decree, DHHS has approved Medicaid Dental reimbursement to be updated to 95% of the 2007 Delta Dental Premier fees. The legal notice was published November 19, 2007 in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. We do not anticipate any difficulties with the amendment and will notify membership as this develops.

RETRO-ACTIVE FEES

EDS will track claims performed during the retro-active period (November 21 until the amendment is final). Upon final approval of the new rates by CMS, claims will be adjusted to reimburse dental providers the increased amount of each procedure billed during the retro-active period.

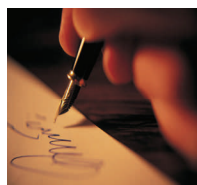
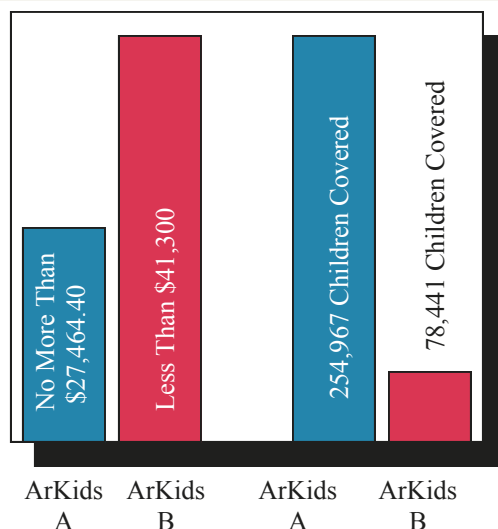
A special thanks to Dr. Tim Chase for doing such a great job as Chairman of the ASDA Medicaid Task Force, ASDA Leadership for their unfailing support of this important issue, FFDL for funding legal expenses associated with Medicaid, and to the Arkansas DHHS office for continuing to work with the dental program to help insure continued success in Arkansas.

How Well Do You Really Know Your Employees?

If you have a practice that is doing well, you should think about the damage that can happen from just one bad hire. According to Joanna Brown, a writer with *CDS Review*, the official publication of the Chicago Dental Society, some experts recommend criminal background checks of all potential employees.

As Ms. Brown writes in the September/October issue,

*(See **Your Employees** back page)*



From The Desk of our Executive Director

Many of you may wonder, "What is SCHIP?"

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was enacted by Congress in 1997 to provide publicly funded health insurance to children of modest-income families commonly referred to as the "working poor." Financing for SCHIP is part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA '97) and is financed through a tobacco tax. States may choose to expand their Medicaid programs, as we have in Arkansas, to meet the SCHIP provisions. Recipients are children through age 18 with family incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.

Currently in Arkansas, SCHIP is the primary funding source for the ArKids B Medicaid program. Eligible recipients are children whose families meet the following restrictions: (1) no access to employer-sponsored or group health insurance, (2) lack of health insurance for six months, and (3) annual income of less than \$41,299.92 for a family of four. The original Medicaid program, ArKids A, covers children from families whose income does not exceed \$27,464.40. Currently there are 254,967 children covered by ArKids A and 78,441 children covered by ArKids B.

As you can see from these figures, ArKids B is a blessing to many of our citizens who are trying to provide for their families

but cannot afford the luxury of dental insurance.

So what's at stake for Arkansas? ArKids B!

Funding for SCHIP expired September 2007 but has been extended until December 14, 2007. Funding will likely be extended again until the fall of 2008. Since Arkansas is using the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) of 200 % we do not have the same risk as many other states. Currently, 18 states have an FPL of 250% and above, with New Jersey's rate being as high as 350%. Many of these states have already experienced budget shortfalls for their SCHIP programs and are in considerable danger of experiencing the same fate in 2008. The current SCHIP as it exists does not have a carve-out for dental coverage. This is a major concern as the program is reallocating funds to cover substantial shortfalls throughout the nation. Organized dentistry will continue to emphasize the need for a dental guarantee within SCHIP as Congress attempts a compromise to insure dental and medical coverage for our "working poor".

Eddie Mauldin
Arkansas State Dental Association
Executive Director



From The Desk of our President

As you have noticed during the past two years, AR Medicaid providers have experienced numerous positive changes in the program. Recently, a long awaited change was announced by **ConnectCare**. They are expanding their services to include a Medicaid/ArKids dental case Management Program which will allow providers to report **missed appointments**. Dental case management specialists will be available Monday through Friday 8:00 am through 4:30 pm to provide assistance to providers and recipients.

When a Medicaid/ArKids patient misses a scheduled appointment, you need to contact **ConnectCare** and report the missed appointment(s).



ConnectCare will then:

- Provide you the appropriate form to report the missed appointment (You may want to make several copies of the original for future use)
- Contact the recipient to determine the reason for missing the appointment.
- Reschedule the missed appointment.
- Make appointment reminders for recipients.
- Assist with transportation arrangements if necessary.

The provider toll free number for **ConnectCare** is 1-800-322-5580 or you may email information to ConnectCare.Dental@arkansas.gov

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!
Wendell Garrett, D.D.S.



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Simroid robot lets dental students know what hurts

by [Darren Murph](#)

We've already seen medical students [operate](#) on robots that bleed, yap and flat-line, but it's about time dental students underwent the same kind of scrutiny, don'tcha think? If things go as planned,

future dentists in Japan could soon be practicing on Simroid, a humanoid that resembles a young woman and can talk back when students hit a nerve. Reportedly, the bot can exclaim "it hurts" and move her eyes / hands whenever discomfort is felt.

Your Employees continued from page one

not all criminal history should necessarily keep you from hiring someone. For instance, a night of drunken mayhem in college 10 years ago is not the same as embezzling from a recent employer.

Professional background screeners can find public information on an applicant for as little as \$10 and most searches take only a few days. Still, more thorough searches are a good investment if you're serious about protecting your practice.

Not only is your practice at risk directly, through embezzlement or theft, but your patients and other employees could be victimized by a bad hire. Conducting criminal background checks on job applicants could save you a lot of heartache—and money—in the long run.

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Editor's Note: The state of Arkansas offers resources on background checks through the Arkansas State Police: <https://www.ark.org/criminal/index.php>

2008 ANNUAL SESSION

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