



▶ DHHS TO IMPLEMENT NEW CODE FOR COMPOSITE RESTORATION..... 1



▶ TAMPER-PROOF RX 1



▶ HOW TO BECOME A MEDICAID PROVIDOR ..... 2

# ASDA Advisor

ISSUE 1 VOLUME 1 2007

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF DENTISTS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

## Medicaid Update

### Medicaid Composite Code

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has agreed to implement a new code for composite restorations. The code will reimburse at the amalgam rate but will allow you to bill more accurately. The new code is expected to be in place no later than January 2008.

### Increased Medicaid Providers

ASDA worked diligently with DHHS to come up with a plan that would entice more providers to participate in the Medicaid dental program. From 2/1/06 – 8/17/07 there have been 146 additional providers who have enrolled in the dental program. This is a great achievement and you should be very proud of the dental profession. Be sure to thank the ASDA leadership and

FFDL for continuing to “foot the Bill” for Medicaid legal expenses that are on-going.

### Adult Medicaid Program

The 2007 Legislature approved the funds to move forward with the adult Medicaid Program. DHHS has requested input from the ASDA in regard to the adult program which they are in the process of developing. We will keep the membership informed as this develops.

### 2007 Rate Increase

We are currently negotiating with Medicaid in regard to the 2007 increase that was outlined in the Consent Decree. While we understand that an incremental increase in dental reimbursement every other year and the increased



## Supplemental Retirement Plan for Medicaid Providers

Providers can defer up to 15,000-20,000 annually. Individual Medicaid providers can defer Medicaid Income on a pretax basis into Arkansas Diamond Plan. More than 500 Medicaid providers enrolled on the plan defer a portion of their Medicaid Income to the plan. Some providers have been making contributions for more than 20 years. For information regarding participation contact Robert Jones of Stephens Inc. at 501-377-8112

See **MEDICAID** back page



## From the desk of our Executive Director

We have been notified that dental benefits will be dropped for all state employees (including teachers) effective January 1, 2008. This information was verified by the Arkansas State Employees Association. The ADA has been briefed on the situation and is equally concerned that the state of Arkansas has taken such a huge step backwards in regard to the importance of dental benefits and preventive care. I expect the ADA will be partnering with the ASDA to address this issue before similar actions begin in other states.

Appropriate dental care and good oral health enhance employability among adults and increase the likelihood that they will get a job, keep their job and achieve independence from the welfare system. In this way good dental coverage for adults can contribute to increasing employment and success for employees and employers alike.

There is no question this sends a poor message as to the importance of dental health to employers and to the general public.

We will keep you informed as this develops.

### Edie Mauldin

Arkansas State Dental Association  
Executive Director

## Tamper-proof RX

Please be aware that there is a new law requiring **Medicaid prescriptions** to be written on “tamper-resistant” pads could be a disincentive to participate in the program. The ADA has sent a letter to HHS asking for a one-year delay in implementation. **(The implementation date is, Oct. 1, 2007)** This date gives very little time for pharmacies and providers to prepare.) Other provider groups have sent similar letters asking for the delay. Congress’ motivation in enacting this new law was that it cost the government millions of dollars annually to deal with fraud caused by altered Medicaid prescriptions. Some states already have laws requiring tamper-resistant pads for all or controlled prescriptions. Our staff has investigated the cost of buying tamper-resistant Rx pads through dental suppliers, and it’s the same for regular and tamper-resistant pads.

See **Tamper-Proof RX** back page

## Tamper-proof RX *Continued from page one*

The rule reads as follows:

**SUBJECT:** Tamper-Resistant Prescription pads Under the Medicaid Program

(1) This rule implements the federal U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 provision (Section 1903(i) (23) of the Social Security Act) stating that effective October 9, 2007, federal Medicaid funding shall not be available for any amounts expended for prescription drugs for which the prescription was executed in written (and non-electronic) form unless the prescription was executed on a tamper-resistant pad. Accordingly, non-electronic prescriptions executed on or after October 1, 2007, for any outpatient drugs reimbursed by Medicaid, must be written on tamper-resistant pads. Medicaid will make no payment for outpatient drugs dispensed pursuant to non-compliant prescriptions.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE** This rule applies to prescriptions executed after September 30, 2007. .

(3) **SCOPE:** Regardless of whether Medicaid is the primary or secondary payer of the prescription being filled, this rule applies to all non-electronic Medicaid-covered outpatient drugs except:

(a) Refills of written prescriptions presented at a pharmacy before October 1, 2007;

(b) Emergency fills of non-controlled or controlled dangerous substances for which a prescriber provides the pharmacy with a verbal, faxed, electronic, or compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the date on which the prescription was filled;

(c) Drugs provided in nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, and other federally specified institutional and clinical settings so long as those drugs are not billed separately to Medicaid, for example, those billed by an individual pharmacy provider.

For purposes of this rule, "electronic prescriptions" include e-prescriptions transmitted to the pharmacy, prescriptions faxed to the pharmacy, or prescriptions communicated to the pharmacy by telephone by a prescriber.



7480 Highway 107  
Sherwood, AR 72120

**2008  
ANNUAL  
SESSION**

**The Champions of  
Dentistry**

April 4-5, 2008  
Hot Springs, AR

### **MEDICAID** *continued from page one*

enrollment and utilization may result in some difficulty in determining a precise budget impact, we believe that the exponential growth in provider enrollment seen following the 2006 agreement will level out so that it can be more easily predicted. That initial growth is what Medicaid told us they wanted to see. We also believe that the difficulty in determining a precise budget impact should not be a barrier to providing reimbursement at a level that will encourage dental providers to participate in the Medicaid program so that beneficiaries have better access to dental care. Such an approach would put the dental program in

trouble by letting impossible exactitude stand in the way of proper reimbursement and access to care as required by federal law. We maintain that the rates are to be adjusted to 95% of the 2007 Delta Dental Premier rates according to the discussions leading up to finalizing the language in the consent decree. While we realize that the Division of Medical Services has a different view of the consent decree and the discussions leading up to finalizing its language, we believe that an adjustment to 95% of the 2007 Delta Dental Premier rates is both proper in light of the consent decree and critical to sustaining the viability of the program.

## How to become a Medicaid Provider

Call EDS 800-457-4454 and select option 0 (zero) to get to the New Medicaid Enrollment representatives or Go to: [www.medicaid.state.ar.us](http://www.medicaid.state.ar.us) Go to: Providers Information Then: Select New Providers You can then print off an application and mail to EDS.



**Don't miss out on the best "feel good" project that you may ever be a part of!**

**The 2008 ArMOM Project will be held at the State House Convention Center  
May 2 - 3, 2008**

**The 2007 project was a great success. Let's make 2008 even greater!**