

Dear Vermont Dentist,

You have been heard! Effective July 1, 2023, the reimbursement rates for Medicaid-covered dental services are now 75% of regional commercial dental rates.

This change represents a **~50% increase for dental services** provided to Vermont Medicaid members. Additionally, the annual cap on adult dental expenditures has increased to \$1,500 to coincide with the updated rates. Approximately 30% of Vermonters are enrolled in Medicaid or Dr. Dynasaur. This is a BIG step in the right direction—and great news for both providers and patients.

If you haven't accepted Medicaid insurance before, or if it's been a while, this is an opportunity to serve all members of your community regardless of insurance type. We urge you to enroll now.



Action Steps:

- **Enroll in the Medicaid Program:** [Enroll \(or re-enroll\) in Medicaid](#), or expand the number of patients with Medicaid who you see.
 - The Department of Vermont Health Access is committed to expediting all dental provider applications. If you would like assistance or have questions about the fee schedule, contact Gainwell Provider Services at 800-925-1706 or contact your [Provider Services Representative](#) directly.
- **Talk to a Peer Dentist:** Speak with a dentist who accepts Medicaid about how it works in their practice. Contact Patrick Gallivan at 802-864-0115 to be connected to peer support.



Together, we can improve oral health for all Vermonters! On behalf of the VSDS and DVHA, we are committed to making this process as smooth and rewarding for you as possible.

Sincerely,

Steve Rayes, DDS, MS

President, Vermont State Dental Society

Commissioner Andrea De La Bruere

Department of Vermont Health Access



Common Questions:

Q: If I accept Medicaid, do I have to take all the patients insured by Medicaid?

A: Just like you are not required to treat all patients with commercial insurance, you are not required to treat all patients who are insured by Medicaid.

Q: What about missed appointments?

A: One of the biggest reasons for missed appointments is transportation. Medicaid provides transportation to appointments for covered services to members who don't have access to their own transportation, see [Non-Emergency Medical Transportation | Department of Vermont Health Access](#) for more information.

You can also get support for reducing missed appointments through the peer support model mentioned above. Visit [this link](#) for more tips on reducing missed appointments.



Q: Doesn't the administrative work increase when working with Medicaid?

A: Actually, some providers prefer to work with Medicaid versus other insurances because of the consistency they offer. You'll know what is covered, what the process is, and when you will get paid.

Testimonials:

"The Medicaid fee increase allows our office to continue doing what we've always done, which is to provide care for as many of VT's kids as possible that need the specialty care of a pediatric dentist".

Gary Davis, DDS, MS
Burlington

"The Vermont Medicaid dental benefit really helps our patients get the care they need and deserve. They recognize the importance of oral health, and as providers, we are extremely grateful".

Katherine Merrick, DMD, MPH
Plainfield

"This is a great step forward in helping dentists serve their entire community".

Robert Ruhl, DMD
Wilmington

"The Medicaid fee increase is going to allow more private practices to do what we love and are trained for, and that is take care of our communities. Better reimbursement makes participation practical and beneficial for many more offices, which will greatly impact access to care in our state."

Charlotte Church, DDS
Bristol