

10) Scholarships

Scholarships, administered through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, are awarded to encourage new dentists to practice in Vermont.

SFY 2008/2009 combined allocation of \$40,000 will be distributed for the 2008-2009 academic year.

11) Access Grants

In SFY 2008, a total of \$70,000 was awarded as an incentive for dentists to expand access to Medicaid beneficiaries. Seven grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

SFY 2009—Funding will remain at \$70,000.

12) Supplemental Payment Program

In SFY 2008, the OVHA distributed \$292,836 to recognize and reward dentists serving high volumes of Medicaid beneficiaries. Thirty dentists qualified for semi-annual payouts. SFY 2009—Distributions of \$146,418 each will be made in October 2008 and April 2009; total \$292,836.



PARTNERS

The Office of Vermont Health Access and the Vermont Department of Health, Office of Oral Health are proud to partner with the following organizations to improve oral health for all

Vermonters:

- Vermont State Dental Society
- Vermont Dental Hygienists' Association
- Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Department of Education
- Maximus
- APS Healthcare



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Office of Vermont Health Access
Vermont Department of Health

The

Dental Dozen

12 Targeted Initiatives
to Improve Oral Health
for all Vermonters

The Dental Dozen - 12 Targeted Initiatives to Improve Oral Health for all Vermonters



A Comprehensive, Balanced Approach to Improve Oral Health Access

1) Ensure Oral Health Exams for School-age Children

The Vermont Department of Health (VDH), the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA) and the Department of Education collaborated to reinforce the importance of oral health exams and encourage preventive care. School outreach efforts introduced a broader educational campaign for the fall of 2008. SFY 2009— Educational campaign for schools, parents and children; focus is on fluoride, sealants and regular checkups. Investment: \$735,147.

2) Increase Dental Reimbursement Rates

The OVHA committed to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates over a three-year period to stabilize the current provider network, encourage new dentists to enroll as Medicaid providers and encourage enrolled dentists to see more Medicaid beneficiaries. Rates were increased by \$637,862 in SFY 2008 and by \$1,412,441 for SFY 2009.

3) Reimburse Primary Care Physicians for Oral Health Risk Assessments

The OVHA reimburses Primary Care Providers (PCPs) for performing Oral Health Risk Assessments (OHRAs) to promote preventive care and increase access for children from ages 0-3.

SFY 2009— An action plan will educate/train physicians on performing OHRA's, including online training web links. Investment: \$40,000.

4) Place Dental Hygienists in all 12 District Health Offices

Successful pilot project will result in three part-time dental hygienists in District Health Offices.

SFY 2009— Hygienists will provide services, oral health education, early risk assessment and work to connect children with a "dental home." Investment: \$58,000.

5) Selection/Assignment of a Dental Home for Children

The OVHA introduced the capability to select/assign a primary dentist for a child, allowing for the same continuity of care as assigning a Primary Care Physician (PCP) for health improvement; more than 4500 enrollees have selected a dental home, emphasizing the importance of keeping oral health care on par with regular physicals and health checkups. SFY 2009—Awareness efforts will continue in schools, District Health Offices, on web sites and at enrollment to expand dental homes for children.



6) Enhance Outreach

The OVHA and VDH conducted outreach and awareness activities to support understanding of the Dental Dozen and help ensure the success of the initiatives.

SFY 2009—Work will continue to promote benefits available to dental providers, highlight incentives designed to bring and keep more dentists in Vermont and continue outreach with schools, parents and children. A retired Vermont dentist, with grant assistance, is helping recruit and retain more dentists.

7) Codes for Missed Appointments/Late Cancellations

Vermont introduced a code to report missed appointments and late cancellations.

SFY 2009—The OVHA will evaluate the resulting data to explore processes to reduce missed appointments and late cancellations.

8) Automation of Medicaid Cap Information for Adult Benefits

The OVHA introduced a system upgrade to allow enrolled dentists to access Medicaid cap information for adult benefits automatically.

SFY 2009—The annual cap for adult benefits is set at \$495 and the OVHA will track provider use of this upgrade.

9) Loan Repayment Program

In SFY 2008, Vermont awarded \$195,000 in loan repayment incentives to dentists in return for a commitment to practice in Vermont and serve low income populations; thirteen awards ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

SFY 2009—Funding will remain at \$195,000.