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Better Health Care for all Floridians

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MEMO TO MEDIA

The following points are background regarding the provision of Medicaid-covered dental services for children.

- **More children had a dental visit because of the Prepaid Dental Health Plan (PDHP) Program:** Scores for the measure “Annual Dental Visit” have improved every year since the inception of the PDPH Program in Miami-Dade County in 2004.
- **Prepaid and managed care dental systems have increased care:** The PDHP Program in Miami-Dade County significantly outperformed fee-for-service for federal fiscal year (FY) 2011-12 (October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012) with regard to preventative dental service. The PDHP Program was expanded from the Miami-Dade pilot to cover the entire state (less the Medicaid Reform counties: Baker, Broward, Clay, Duval and Nassau) in December 2012. The managed care plans in the Reform counties also outperformed fee-for-service on providing dental preventative care services for FY 2011-12.
- **Fully staffed network of dentists:** Currently the two prepaid dental health plans (PDHP) collectively have more dentists in their networks in every region of the state than the fee-for-service program. As of June 2013, there are approximately 2,700 unduplicated enrolled dental providers in the PDHP’s networks and 2,000 unduplicated dental providers enrolled in fee-for-service.
- **Emergency care is never required to be prior authorized:** If dental providers have patients in their office that need immediate care the dentist may provide the emergent care and will be reimbursed. If the dentist is concerned about reimbursement for these services, both PDHPs have an expedited authorization process which allows for the dentist to receive authorization on the phone.
- **Expanding dental care for children:** Effective July 1, 2013, all Medicaid children eligible for the PDHPs were enrolled in one of the two prepaid dental health plans: DentaQuest or MCNA Dental. Once children are enrolled the dental health plans become responsible for dental care provision and claim payment. Providers are being encouraged to join one or both of the dental plan’s networks. Each plan actively recruits additional providers and welcomes applications from dentists who are not already participating.
- **Expectations of care moving forward:** Moving forward, the State will continue increasing the provision of dental services for children as defined by CMS measures and HEDIS scores. The Agency expects to increase the provision of dental services to children as we implement the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program.

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