South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Medical Care Advisory Committee
Item for Committee Advisement

PREPARED BY: Steve Boucher

PRESENTED BY: Steve Boucher

DATE: February 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Restoration of Emergency Dental Benefit for Adults

OBJECTIVE: Reinstate the adult emergency dental benefit to provide Dental services for recipients over 21 years of age. Services are limited to those delivered in emergent situations, including:

- Extractions for the relief of severe and acute pain or an infectious process in the mouth;
- Removal and/or drainage of cysts and/or lesions for the relief of severe and acute pain or an infectious process in the mouth.

Dental benefits for the following services continue as before with no change:

- Emergency Services performed by oral surgeons billed using CPT codes;
- Extractions and necessary treatment for repair of traumatic injury;
- Full mouth extractions as necessary for catastrophic illnesses such as an organ transplant, chemotherapy, severe heart disease, or other life threatening illness (extraordinary services).

BACKGROUND: SCDHHS terminated the non-extraordinary adult emergency dental benefit in February 2011. In January 2012, emergency CPT services performed by oral surgeons, was added back as an adult benefit.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: SFY2014: Approximately $4M

EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Allowing emergency dental treatment for adults should result in a decrease in medical costs associated with untreated dental emergencies.

EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED: Dentist, Beneficiaries and South Carolina Dental Association.

RECOMMENDATION: Implement the Adult Emergency Dental Benefit

EFFECTIVE DATE: On or after April 1, 2014