

## **COMMENTS REGARDING Emergency Adult Dental Proposed Public Notice:**

“Will the proposed 2015 benefit include Adult Dentures?”

### **SCDHHS Response:**

**The adult preventive benefit does not include dentures. (Response was sent to Ms. Perry on 2/18/14 because this was a simple coverage question)**

“What are the codes that will be covered now for general dentists? Also, what do we need to submit with claims (xrays, etc.) Will these fees be the same as they are now or will they be different?”

**SCDHHS Response: All codes that will be available under the emergency adult benefit are currently outlined in Exhibit B of the Dental ORM (attached). The 7000 series (extractions/oral surgery) begin on page 132. Claim submissions for services rendered to adults must indicate that the treatment was due to an emergency. Dental claims should include the full word “Emergency” in Field 35 (Comments Section) of the ADA claim form. Codes that will require review (i.e., submission of narrative of medical necessity, radiographs, etc.) will be indicated within Exhibit B of the Dental ORM. At this time SCDHHS’ intention is that up to 4 extractions per date of service will not require documentation of medical necessity beyond the “Emergency” indication in Field 35 of the ADA claim form. More than 4 extractions per date of service will require pre-payment review. Prior authorization is optional. The fee schedule for emergency adult dental services will comply with the current dental fee schedule.**

“DentaQuest appreciates the opportunity to commend the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) on its plan to reestablish emergency dental services for adults over the age of 21. As the dental Administrative Service Organization (ASO) to SCDHHS, DentaQuest is committed to supporting SCDHHS, its adult members and dental providers to ensure that emergency dental care is accessible and coverage criteria straightforward.

Oral health is a crucial part of overall health, no matter one’s age. Dental decay is a disease caused by a bacterial infection and, if left untreated, can spread throughout the body, causing or contributing to serious health conditions. Untreated dental disease has been associated with many complicated and expensive medical complications and conditions including pre-term and low birth weight babies, diabetes, and heart disease. Association between poor oral health and chronic pain, lost days of school and work, and inappropriate use of emergency rooms has been demonstrated through numerous studies.

SCDHHS recognizes these relationships and has rightly focused efforts on improving overall health through focused collaborative efforts like Birth Outcomes Initiative, HeART and developing plans for combating obesity. The inclusion of emergency dental care for beneficiaries age 21 and older is a critical piece for the overall strategy to promote a healthier South Carolina. DentaQuest is proud to be a partner in this endeavor, which is resonant of our own mission to improve the oral health of all.”