Testimony on Amendments to 101 CMR 314.00
Rates for Dental Services
Effective January 1, 2027
August 7, 2026

Introduction

Good afternoon. My name is Tuyen Vu, and I am the Deputy Director, Dental Operations and Contracts at MassHealth within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). I am here to present testimony on proposed amendments to 101 CMR 314.00: Rates for Dental Services. The proposed amendments are effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2027.

Background

Regulation 101 CMR 314.00 establishes the rates used by state governmental units to make payments to eligible providers for dental services rendered to publicly aided individuals. MassHealth is the primary purchaser. In 101 CMR 314.00, each code has two rates: the "Allowable Fee (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic & Treatment Eligible Members,)" hereinafter referred to as EPSDT, is paid for services rendered to individuals younger than 21 years of age, and the "Allowable Fee," hereinafter referred to as Adult, is paid for services provided to individuals 21 years of age and older. In addition to receiving services from licensed dentists, MassHealth members can receive services from other eligible providers including dental schools, dental clinics, public health dental hygienists, community health centers (CHCs), hospital-licensed health centers (HLHCs), and hospital outpatient departments.

Description of Changes

The proposed amendments establish bundled rates for certain limited orthodontic treatment service codes. Additionally, EOHHS proposes to update frequency limitations for two dental service codes. Although the proposed updates to frequency limitations are updates to Subchapter 6 of the Dental Manual and do not require amendments to 101 CMR 314.00, these updates will have a fiscal impact and are therefore described herein.

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Frequency Limitation Updates for Adult and EPSDT Members

Frequency limitation adjustments are proposed for service code D0140, which relates to limited oral evaluation with a current frequency limitation of two units per member per year. EOHHS proposes to revise its frequency limitation to two units per provider per member per year, allowing members to receive more than two units of the limited oral evaluations rendered by multiple providers. Currently, providers who need to render additional units of the limited oral evaluation service are billing service code D9110, which relates to palliative treatment of dental pain. As a result of the proposed updated frequency limitation, EOHHS anticipates that some of the current utilization for code D9110 will shift to code D0140.

Frequency limitation adjustments are also proposed for service code D1354, which relates to temporary treatment of cavities with silver diamine fluoride with a current frequency limitation of two units per tooth per member per lifetime. EOHHS proposes to revise the frequency limitation to two units per tooth per member per year. Currently, providers who need to render additional units of the silver diamine fluoride service are billing one of the filling service codes (D2140, D2150, D2160, D2161, D2330, D2331, D2332, D2335, D2390, D2391, D2392, D2393, or D2394). As a result of the updated frequency limitation, EOHHS anticipates that some of the current utilization for filling services will shift to code D1354 utilization.

Bundled Rates for Certain Limited Orthodontic Services for EPSDT Members

Service codes D8010, D8020, D8030, and D8040 relate to limited orthodontic treatment of primary, transitional, adolescent, and adult dentition, respectively. These service codes cover the base visits for the limited orthodontic treatment services, with their follow-up visits billed using an unspecified orthodontic treatment procedure code D8999. Providers are currently allowed to bill up to five units of the follow-up service code at $54 per unit. To streamline the provision of the limited orthodontic treatment service plans for EPSDT members, EOHHS proposes to establish a bundled rate incorporating the rate for the base code at $250 per visit, and five follow-

up visits for up to $270 for each of the service codes D8010, D8020, D8030, and D8040. The proposed bundled rate for each code is $520.

All other Adult and EPSDT rates, including code D8999, will remain at their current levels. Finally, the proposed amendments also update terminology and incorporate coding updates to 101 CMR 314.00 previously issued via administrative bulletins.

EOHHS is proposing these changes to 101 CMR 314.00, subject to federal approval, to ensure that payment rates are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and satisfy the requirements of M.G.L. 118E, sections 13C and 13D.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated annual aggregate fiscal impact associated with the proposed amendments to 101 CMR 314.00 and the proposed updates to Subchapter 6 of the Dental Manual is $233,000, or a 0.04% increase relative to the SFY 2025 base spending of $553 million.

This concludes my testimony.

Thank you.