

**Dental Case Management Outreach Services
North Dakota Dental Association
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A model is currently being considered in North Dakota that enables registered dental assistants and hygienists, employed by a collaborative dental office, to provide oral health assessments, fluoride varnish applications and case management for high-risk dental patients in a community settings. These community settings could include pre-schools, elementary schools, medical settings, or long-term care facilities. These dental professionals would identify high-risk patients and link them with a dental home. Case management, whereby families and patients are educated, motivated, and followed for referral for definitive treatment in a dental home, has been shown to be an effective way to reduce barriers to care for Medicaid recipients. Connection to the dental home ensures that children and high-risk adults will have access to comprehensive care as well as maximum exposure to preventive services. The proposed model would depend on reimbursement to the collaborative dental offices for outreach services with the hope over time to demonstrate lower caries rates, linkage to dental homes, and lower costs to Medicaid and other third parties for this population.

This outreach model would be investigated in North Dakota by a study designed and managed by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). The AAPD would develop the criteria for service reimbursement to collaborative dentists, as well provide the training necessary for effective case management. The regulatory infrastructure to allow this model has been recently affirmed by the ND Board of Dental Examiners. This also includes the ability of dental

assistants to assist hygienists for sealant placement. It is expected that grant funding would not only fund the administrative costs of the study but also reimburse the collaborative dental offices for the outreach services. If the model proves successful in meeting its goals, Medicaid programs and other third-party reimbursement sources will be better able to make evidenced-based decisions regarding reimbursement for these services.

The following organizations in North Dakota have endorsed the model:

North Dakota Dental Association

North Dakota Dental Hygienists Association

North Dakota Dental Assistants Association

North Dakota Oral Health Coalition

North Dakota Dental Foundation

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of ND Dental Service Corporation

North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners

Oral Health Program-ND State Department of Health

Bridging the Dental Gap, Inc.

Red River Valley Dental Access Project