

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS: MEDICAID ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS**

DentaQuest and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) are excited to announce that a new comprehensive adult benefit will be implemented on July 1, 2021. To equip dental hygienists with more information, VDHA has compiled a list of frequently asked questions regarding the benefits and the potential role that hygienists have in promoting the program.

**1. What is the difference between Medicaid and DentaQuest?**

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is the state agency that administers all Medicaid benefits, including the dental benefit programs for Virginia ***Smiles for Children***, pregnant women and adults. DMAS contracts with DentaQuest to administer the Smiles For Children dental program.

**2. For dentists who are considering enrolling as a Medicaid provider for the first time:**

**a. What does a dentist have to do to enroll as a Medicaid provider for the first time?**

In order to be credentialed as a Medicaid provider in Virginia, the dentist must complete and submit the DentaQuest application with supporting documentation:

[For Virginia Dentists | Virginia State Dental Plans - DentaQuest](#)

**b. What kind of billing software training / tech support is available for new Medicaid providers?**

Dentists and office staff are offered training through DentaQuest.

**3. What does the licensed dental hygienist need to do to provide dental hygiene care to Medicaid patients when employed in a private dental office?**

As long as the dentist has been approved as a Medicaid provider, the hygienist may provide dental hygiene services to Medicaid enrolled children, pregnant women and adults.

**4. Can the dental hygienist be a Medicaid approved provider?**

No, while dental hygienists can provide care to Medicaid patients, they are not allowed to bill Medicaid directly in Virginia for the services they provide. The supervising dentist who is enrolled as a Medicaid provider will bill and receive payment for the services rendered by the dental hygienist.

**5. Are the dental hygiene services covered if provided under ‘remote supervision’? Yes, the remote supervising dentist, if credentialed and enrolled as a Medicaid provider, may bill and receive payment for the services provided by the remote supervision dental hygienist. This can be a dentist working in private practice as well as working or volunteering in the safety net settings allowed by law.**

[Va Board of Dentistry Laws & Regulations \(virginia.gov\)](#)

**6. Do you have any tips on how hygienists can influence their employer dentist to become a Medicaid provider to serve this population in need?**

There will be multiple online opportunities to learn more about the program and ask questions. DentaQuest, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Virginia Dental Association and the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association plan to promote these opportunities as they become available.

[For Virginia Dentists | Virginia State Dental Plans - DentaQuest](#)  
<https://dmas.virginia.gov/for-providers/dental/for-dentists/>

**7. What periodontal services typically performed by the dental hygienist are covered benefits?**

Because of the focus placed on chronic disease management in the adult benefits program, multiple periodontal services are covered.

In addition to D1110, adult prophylaxis\*, the following periodontal services are covered:

D4341	periodontal scaling and root planing - four or more teeth per quadrant
D4342	periodontal scaling and root planing - one to three teeth per quadrant
D4346	scaling in presence of generalized moderate or severe gingival inflammation – full mouth, after oral evaluation
D4355	full mouth debridement to enable a comprehensive oral evaluation and diagnosis on a subsequent visit
D4910	periodontal maintenance procedures

\*D1110 is fully covered up to three times per year by narrative / medical necessity, with no time frequency limitations.

For more details, click here:

<https://dmas.virginia.gov/for-providers/dental/for-dentists/>

