

Healthy Kids Dental Program

(FY2019 Appropriation Act - Public Act 207 of 2018)

September 30, 2019

Sec. 1508. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for medical services administration, \$500,000.00 is appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the Michigan dental registry in support of the enhanced dental benefit for the Healthy Kids Dental program. Additionally, the department shall explore the expansion of the scope of the Michigan dental registry to enhance the Medicaid adult dental benefit for pregnant women.

(2) *The department shall monitor childhood caries preventative services delivered to pediatric Medicaid recipients in both medical and dental settings. By September 30 of the current fiscal year, the department shall submit a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office on the results of the program. The report shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:*

(a) *Comparative data on completed referral rates from pediatric medical providers to dental providers.*

(b) *The reduction of caries in the Medicaid child population.*

(c) *Any associated long-term or short-term cost savings to the Medicaid program.*



MICHIGAN DENTAL REGISTRY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATION ACT - PA 207 of 2018

The funding appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the Michigan Dental Registry required a contract between Altarum, the Department of Technology, Management and Budget and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) be executed to embed the tool into state infrastructure. The contract was effective on February 1, 2019, with statement of work requirements to address the support of the Healthy Kids Dental program. The DHHS believes the Michigan Dental Registry is critically important to support communication and care coordination across care settings. The main objective of the Michigan Dental Registry is to maintain the system, improve communication and care coordination between medical, dental and social service providers for improved utilization of dental benefits for the Healthy Kids Dental program. Progress reports and conference calls to address the statement of work include:

- (a) *Comparative data on completed referral rates from pediatric medical providers to dental providers:* Since February 1, 2019 a total of 462 referrals have been made.
- (b) *The reduction of caries in the Medicaid child population:* As this contract has only been in place since February 1, 2019, outcomes and performance data are not yet available. The duration of this project is five years. As this project progresses, an evaluation component will be added to address this performance measure.
- (c) *Any associated long-term or short-term cost savings to the Medicaid program:* It is too early to see cost savings. The state could potentially see cost savings in increased dental utilization versus the use of emergency department visits for dental problems in children and decreased use of a hospital operating room for dental decay in young children. While there may be an increase in dental utilization costs, those are less costly than hospital visits or operating room costs.

One of the major work activities for the Michigan Dental Registry is communication and outreach to medical and dental providers. Continuing Education training and participation by medical and dental providers will enhance the implementation support. The implementation of the Michigan Dental Registry tool continues to increase. As of August 2019, there is a total of 809 users reported with 305 dental providers and 504 medical providers. A continuing education course for dental providers was conducted in August and two continuing education courses in September. Altarum will support Delta Dental Plan of Michigan and DentaQuest in issuing out any pertinent follow-up communications about the Michigan Dental Registry and the continuing education available to dental providers in the Healthy Kids Dental network and continue to assess for outreach opportunities with those partners.