

# Dental Services Report

(FY2019 Appropriation Act - Public Act 207 of 2018)

**October 1, 2018**

**Sec. 1704.** (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for health plan services, the department shall allocate \$6,000,000.00 to support the enhancement of the Medicaid adult dental benefit for pregnant women enrolled in a Medicaid program.

***(2) The department shall report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget office by October 1 of the current fiscal year on the steps taken by the department to implement subsection (1). (3) Outcomes and performance measures for the program change under this section include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) The number of pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid who visited a dentist over the prior year. (b) The number of dentists statewide who participate in providing dental services to pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid.***



**Dental Services- Implementation Status Report**  
**Section 1704(2) of Public Act 207 of 2018**

The funding appropriated to support the enhancement of the Medicaid adult dental benefit for pregnant women enrolled in a Medicaid Program was used to carve the dental benefit for pregnant women into the Medicaid Health Plan (MHP) benefit package. This was accomplished by adding an actuarially sound amount to the Maternity Case Rate received by the MHPs for enrollees who give birth while enrolled in the plan.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) believes the coordination of physical and oral health care for pregnant women is critically important and we have taken the following steps to operationalize this approach in Fiscal Year 2018:

- Amended the Comprehensive Health Care Program (CHCP) 1915(b) waiver to add managed care dental coverage for pregnant women eligible for Medicaid;
- Made the corresponding changes to the Medicaid Health Plan contracts;
- Modified the Medicaid Health Plan rates to account for this change;
- Promulgated Medicaid Policy with a July 1, 2018 effective date; and
- Completed the system changes to effectuate this policy change.

The changes went into effect on July 1, 2018. Adding this benefit to the scope of the MHPs' responsibilities facilitates better care coordination and is expected to increase access to dental services to improve the health of moms and babies. As this change has only been in effect for several months, outcomes and performance measure data are not yet available. The DHHS expects to be able to make this information available for the first year of implementation by September 30, 2019.