



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

July 9, 2025

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**[Weekly
Wednesday
Update](#)**

We Did It!

Dental Rate Increase Goes Into Effect

This week the Kansas Medicaid program announced that the dental rate increase has gone into effect! Dozens of advocates and dental professionals participated in the advocacy during the 2025 Kansas Legislative Session to get funding for a dental rate increase. While the amount of funding allocated by the Legislature fell short of what was needed to get the Medicaid rates to the commercial insurance level, it is still the largest amount of funding allocated for a Medicaid dental rate increase in at least 25 years.

Over 75 dental professionals provided feedback about the best way to allocate the funds in order to help maximize the number of dental offices that are Medicaid providers. Nearly every Medicaid dental code will see an increase. The rates will increase by roughly these amounts:

- Exams: 50%
- Cleanings/scaling & root planing: 35%
- X-rays and composite fillings: 20%
- All other codes 10%

A full list of the new Medicaid rates is available on a new provider bulletin on the [KMAP website](#).

Thank you again for your help with the advocacy to make this rate increase possible. We look forward to working with you to finish the job and advocate for the remaining funds needed in 2026.



FDA Hearing on Fluoride Supplements: July 23

Following the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) announcement that they will take fluoride supplements off the market in the fall, the Reagan-Udall Foundation, in cooperation with the FDA, announced they will hold a public hearing on fluoride supplements on Wednesday, July 23. The hearing will be hybrid and will run from 8:30 am to 3 pm CT. Notice of the hearing is available [here](#).

Fluoride supplements are often the only preventive option for kids without access to fluoridated water, especially those on well water or in communities without water fluoridation, such as Wichita.

The link to register to attend and/or speak at the meeting (in person or virtually) is [here](#).

We encourage everyone who is able to submit comments either in advance or in person during the virtual meeting. **Background and talking points are available [here](#).** Even if you are not comfortable providing comments, it is important to have as many people who understand and support fluoride as possible attend the hybrid hearing.

The deadline to request to present comments is July 9.

The deadline to submit comments is July 16.

For your reference, the U.S. Prevention Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendation that oral fluoride supplements be prescribed for children whose primary water source is deficient in fluoride is available here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK575915/>

Topic	Date	Time
Medicaid Dental: New Rates, Better Coverage	August 19	1:15 - 1:45 pm
Your Practice, Your Way: Managing Your Patient Mix	August 26	1:15 - 1:45 pm
Get to Know Your MCOs	September 2	1:15 - 1:45 pm
Enrollment & Credentialing	September 9	1:15 - 1:45 pm
Filing Medicaid Claims	September 16	1:15 - 1:45 pm
Do Well by Doing Good: Medicaid Opportunities	September 23	1:15 - 1:45 pm

Dental Providers! Save the Dates for "Making Medicaid Work for You" Webinar Series

Take another look at how Medicaid dental improvements, including the new rate increase, can support your practice and help you serve your neighbors. This webinar series explores recent improvements to Medicaid dental coverage, including increased reimbursement rates, coverage for adults, technical support, and new opportunities to expand access to care. Whether you're new to Medicaid or have stepped away from it, join us to discover how these changes support both your practice and your patients. Let's build better pathways to oral health together.

Join us for a series of short webinars starting on August 19 to learn about the recent changes to the Medicaid dental

program and discover tools and resources that can help your office become a successful Medicaid provider. Dental CE credit will be available.

The "Making Medicaid Work for You" webinar series is a part of the Pathways to Oral Health project and is co-sponsored by the Kansas Dental Association and Oral Health Kansas.

Registration opens soon!

MY DENTAL CARE PASSPORT

For users: This passport is unique to you. Please fill out all information that you think is important. You can find the Passport User Guide [here](#).

For my dental team: This is key reading for all staff working with me. It gives important information about how I can be supported when visiting your clinic. This passport should be kept visible and used when you talk to me or have a question about me. You can find the Dental Team Passport User Guide [here](#).

ABOUT ME

My name is: _____
I like to be called: _____

My preferred pronoun is:
☐ He ☐ She ☐ They ☐ Not listed _____

I am my own guardian.
☐ Yes ☐ No

Please check the box that applies:
☐ I completed this form myself.
☐ I completed this form with help from someone else.

This is the best person to contact for more information about me:
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

What type of disability do I have:
 Please list all disabilities below:

My Dental Care Passport Has a New Look

In June 2025, Oral Health Kansas and our Pathways to Oral Health partners released the third version of [My Dental Care Passport](#), a unique patient-centered tool created to improve dental care experiences for people with disabilities. This newest edition reflects valuable input from individuals with disabilities, caregivers, dental providers, and self-advocates across Kansas—and now includes more concise language, improved accessibility, and compatibility with assistive technologies.

From its early days as a simple communication tool to this latest, fully inclusive version, [My Dental Care Passport](#) has become a vital link between patients and dental professionals. By allowing

individuals and their caregivers to share personalized information about sensory needs, preferences,

communication styles, and accommodations, the Passport helps dental teams better prepareâ€”making visits safer, smoother, and more successful.

We are currently also working on updating the Spanish version of the My Dental Care Passport. Stay tuned!

Share the My Dental Care Passport with your dental office or if you are a dental office, share it with your team! We have [helpful tips](#) on how to use the guide for your family or if you are a dental office, click [here](#) for tips for your office.



Educational Series about Serving People with Disabilities

Oral Health Kansas and our partners in the [Pathways to Oral Health](#) project are proud to announce a Project ECHO educational series will launch in September that will help dental teams prepare to serve people with disabilities. “Building Confidence in Dental Teams to Serve People with Disabilities” is a free five-part virtual educational program that will help dental teams learn more about people with disabilities, how to understand and prepare for sensitivities in the dental office, and what one dental office has done to create a safe and welcoming environment for their neighbors with disabilities.

This educational series is part of the KU Medical Center’s Project ECHO program, which includes a combination of presentations from experts and case study discussions among participants. Four national experts will deliver presentations about people with disabilities, dental care for people with disabilities, behavior, and sensory accommodations. Dr. Nick Rogers and Billie Donohue from Rogers Family Dentistry in Arkansas City will describe their practice’s approach to embracing people with disabilities.

The sessions will run from 12 to 1 pm CT on Thursdays from September 4 through October 2. ADA CERP credit will be available for attendees. Click [here](#) for the flyer. Registration will open in July, but you can join the mailing list to learn more about the series and receive information about registration by visiting this [link](#).

This Project ECHO series is supported through an ARPA grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Division of Health Care Finance.



Register for a Free Webinar on Community Water Fluoridation

When dental and medical professionals join forces to promote and defend fluoridation, decision makers take notice. The American Academy of Pediatrics fosters medical dental collaboration to elevate the impact health professionals have for their patients and communities. Learn more about community water fluoridation on this upcoming webinar on Monday, July 21, 2025 from 1:30-3:30pm CST.

Community Water Fluoridation: What the Evidence Shows is a webinar that will place the current threats to fluoride-use in the U.S. in the context of the history that brought us here. Bill Maas, DDS, MPH, will link past to present with a review of the evidence on both the benefits and safety of fluoridation and will elucidate the impact of misinformation on families and the public. Please make plans to attend and to share this webinar invitation with pediatric and family physicians. Register [here](#) for the webinar.

Check out these new talking points for dental professionals from the ADA: "[Community Water Fluoridation: Untangling facts from fear](#)"

Be a public health hero here in Kansas! Joining the Statewide Water Action Team (SWAT). This is a rapid response team that watches out for threats to community water fluoridation in Kansas. Learn more and join: [SWAT Form](#).



One Big Beautiful Bill Passes

Thank you to everyone who helped reach out to the Kansas Congressional delegation over the past several weeks as they worked on the budget reconciliation bill known as "one big beautiful bill." You worked hard to tell the stories of real Kansans and how the Medicaid cuts will affect them. Thank you for your advocacy. It's never easy, and we don't win all the battles, but together we

are making things better.

The bill passed late last week. There is a lot of dust to settle as we all figure out what was included in the final version and how Kansans will be affected. Estimates range from 12 to 17 million Americans losing their Medicaid coverage. The cuts to Medicaid total around \$930 million. Administrative changes will mean that people's eligibility for Medicaid will be redetermined every six months. Doubling the eligibility determination frequency is likely to result in errors that will mean people will lose Medicaid coverage. There will be a new cap of \$200,000 for federal student loan borrowing, which will impact many people

who want to go to dental school. Some estimates project that as many as 70% of dental students would not be able to attend school with a cap of \$200,000 on federal student loans.

In short, one of our colleagues remarked that this bill represents one of the biggest changes in our healthcare system's function and structure. Our partners at CareQuest Institute [issued the following statement](#) from Senior Director of Public Policy Melissa Burroughs:

"The passage of this legislation marks a dangerous setback for Medicaid and the millions of people who rely on it for essential health care, which includes oral health. Deep cuts to Medicaid funding, new work requirements, and caps on the mechanisms that states use to fund the program threaten to drastically reduce access to care across the country.

"This bill will make it harder for millions of families to afford dental care, for adults to manage chronic conditions tied to oral health, and for children and families in rural and low-income areas to find providers who can accept Medicaid or keep their doors open at all. History tells us that when states are forced to cut dental benefits, the damage can take years to undo-and often results in higher costs and overcrowded emergency rooms.

"At a time when we should be improving access to prevention and care, this bill moves in the wrong direction. We urge Congress to prioritize policies that protect and strengthen access to oral health care-not dismantle it."

Oral Health Kansas will continue to follow the details around the federal budget and keep you informed. Let us know if you have any questions. info@oralhealthkansas.org



Upcoming Events

- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- Webinar: Improving the Oral Health of Older Adults, July 10 from 6:00pm-7:00pm CST. Register [here](#).
- [Community Care Network of Kansas](#) annual conference, September 24-26 at the Marriott Kansas City Overland Park Hotel, in Overland Park, Kansas.
- Save the date! The Conference on Oral Health will be held Friday, November 7 at the KU Edwards Campus. Click [here](#) for updates on the conference.



Congratulations to Matt Fletcher who has started his new position this week as Executive Director for [TARC](#). Matt has been the Executive Director of [InterHab](#)

since 2018 where he has served as the spokesperson on behalf of thousands of professionals, persons with disabilities and their families. InterHab is a Pathways to Oral Health Project partner. Meghan Shreve will step in as Interim Executive Director. We congratulate Matt and Meghan on their leadership and look forward to continuing to work with both!



Picture courtesy of TK Business Magazine



Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Display's available for reservations. These displays are eye catching at exhibits, schools, library, dental offices, clinics and just about anywhere you see them! We only have a limited amount so please sign up soon if you're interested in reserving one. Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

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