

From: Mary Boudreau <maryb@ctoralhealth.org>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 3:18 PM
To: SIM, OHA
Subject: Comments on oral health

November 25, 2013

CT Office of the Healthcare Advocate
Hartford, Connecticut
Attention: Victoria Veltri, Healthcare Advocate
sim@ct.gov

COMMENTS TO PROPOSED SIM PLAN DRAFT1.1

We congratulate the state and all of you for the success in gaining the grant for the State Innovation Model (SIM) to from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation to support the development and testing of innovative health care payment and service delivery model in our state. The Connecticut Oral Health Initiative (COHI) appreciates the effort that the SIM leaders and stakeholders have spent in developing this plan to date. We agree with the basic concepts outlined in SIM especially the concern for quality care for the residents of Connecticut. COHI, as the leading advocacy organization, has a few comments and suggestions concerning ***dental coverage and care*** that should be considered for inclusion in the plan.

Oral health should be more visibly integrated into this plan, as there is plenty of evidence that oral health is a vital aspect of overall health. This is well documented in references: *Advancing Oral Health in America*, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (2011) and *Oral Health in America*, A Report of the Surgeon General (2000). Though the providers of dental care are often forgotten when speaking of referral to specialists, it is important that there be concrete coordination presented in the SIM between medical and dental providers provided in the model. To improve this plan, we present these ideas.

- Under Primary Care Practice Transformation, ***the concept of a primary care 'Dental Home' should be linked to the Advanced Medical Home (AMH)***. Presently, in the state's Primary Care Medical Home in the HUSKY program, there is an incentive for pediatricians to refer children under the age of three to dental primary care providers. This should be extended to all persons regardless of age on the AMH.
- Integration of oral health into medical practice can be further be implemented by its ***inclusion on training and practice of simple oral health risk assessments by primary care providers with referrals to dental providers***. This is especially true for pediatricians and obstetricians.
- ***Development and implementation of oral health outcome measures*** such as those developed by the Dental Quality Alliance, with a focusing on increasing services for high risk patients.
- It is a fact that many patients receive primary dental care at their Dental Home on a more frequent basis than they receive primary medical care from their Medical Home. ***Incentives for licensed dental providers to referral to the primary care health provider would be an effective means to increase quality health care.***
- Lastly, SIM needs to ***include the dental profession at the table*** and as a vital part of the discussion.

COHI is ready to assist and contribute needed support or clarification regarding the inclusion of oral health in the State Innovation Model. Please feel free to contact our office with any comments or questions you have on this matter.

Regards,

Mary Moran Boudreau

Mary Moran Boudreau, RDH, MBA
Executive Director
Connecticut Oral Health Initiative
175 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Office: (860) 246-2644 Ext. 203

Oral Health for All



Connecticut Oral Health Initiative



NOTICE: *This message, including all attachments transmitted with it, is for the use of the addressee only. It may contain proprietary, confidential and/or legally privileged information. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any missed transmission. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not, directly or indirectly, use, disclose, distribute, print or copy any part of this message. If you believe you have received this message in error, please delete it and all copies of it from your system and notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail.*