

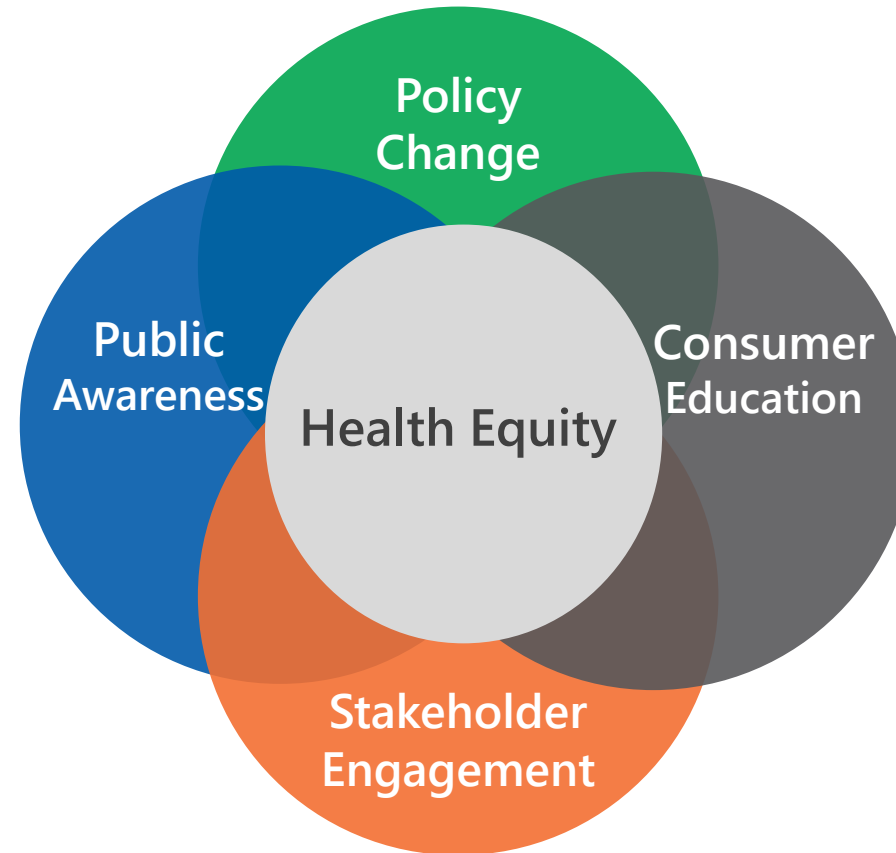
ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Dental Care Access for People with Disabilities

Tanya Dorf Brunner
Executive Director

Oral Health Kansas Mission

To improve oral health in Kansas through advocacy, public awareness and education.



Dental Care Access for People with Disabilities

- Oral healthcare is the **number one** healthcare need for people with disabilities. (Project Accessible Oral Health: www.paoh.org)
- At Oral Health Kansas, one of our most frequently asked questions is where to find care for a child and/or adult with disabilities.



Barriers to Care

A multifaceted and complex issue:

- Stigma
- Lack of awareness
- Historically minimal provider education
- Provider volume
- Communication barriers
- Insurance barriers
- Reimbursement rates
- Lack of resources
- And more...



The facts about oral healthcare for people with disabilities

all smiles shine

BY THE NUMBERS:

1 billion

people worldwide have a disability

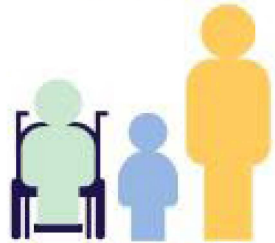
61 million

adults in the US have an intellectual or physical disability

1 in 54

children are diagnosed with autism every year and 1 in 700 babies are born with Down syndrome

The number one health need for people with disabilities is adequate oral care



6.5 million people with disabilities are not able to access the oral care they need

Children with disabilities are **30% more likely** to have their first dental visit delayed

COMPARED WITH THE GENERAL POPULATION, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:



Have **higher rates and increased severity of periodontal disease**



Much **higher rates of untreated cavities**



More **missing and decaying teeth**



More **gum disease and system diseases including heart disease and diabetes**

WHAT'S NEEDED:



More training for dentists
Dental students report the need for more preparation in providing care to patients with disabilities



More awareness
One in every 10 people has a disability, and more than two-thirds of them do not receive any type of oral care



Close the gaps in Medicare and Medicaid coverage
Medicare covers many healthcare services, but not oral healthcare for many people with disabilities



Support for caregivers
Studies show caregivers play a vital role in the provision of oral health support

“

Of all the medically underserved populations, people with disabilities have been the most marginalized when it comes to oral healthcare.”

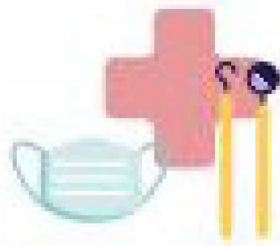
Dr. Steve Perlman,
Global Clinical Director and Founder,
Special Olympics, Professor Boston University
Dental School of Medicine.

Sources:

WHO Report on Disability. CDC 2020. OHSU/EDU (CN DL, Momany ET, Jones MR, Damiano PC. Timing of first dental visits for newly Medicaid enrolled children with an intellectual or developmental disability in Iowa, 2005-2007. Am J Public Health. 2011;101(5):922-929. Khoochi, Jansal, & Turner 2010, Hsieh et. al 2018. <https://hcd.gov/newsroom/2017/hcd-highlights-scarce-dental-care-patients-ids-latest-policy-brief#:~:text=%E2%80%ACThe%20effect%20proper%20dental%20care,to%20people%20with%20ID%2FDD>

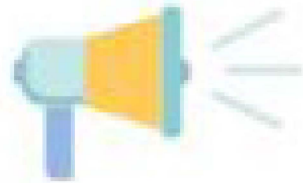
Wilson, N.J., Lin, Z., Villarosa, A. et al. Countering the poor oral health of people with intellectual and developmental disability: a scoping literature review. BMC Public Health 19, 1530 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-7863-1>

WHAT'S NEEDED:



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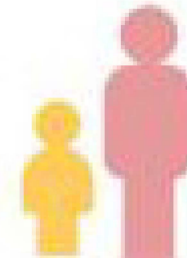
More awareness

One in every 10 people has a disability, and more than two-thirds of them do not receive any type of oral care



Close the gaps in Medicare and Medicaid coverage

Medicare covers many healthcare services, but not oral healthcare for many people with disabilities



Support for caregivers

Studies show caregivers play a vital role in the provision of oral health support

New grant to improve dental care for people with disabilities

- KDHE Division of Health Care Finance ARPA Project
- Purpose is to improve access to and utilization of oral health services for people with IDD and autism covered by Medicaid HCBS waivers
- October 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025
- Builds on the Pathways to Oral Health work



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oral Health Kansas Awarded Grant to Enhance Dental Care for Individuals with Disabilities

Oral Health Kansas is proud to announce that it has been awarded the ARPA 9817 Project grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Division of Health Care Finance (KDHE-DHCF). This funding will be used to improve access to oral health services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who receive Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The grant also aims to reduce barriers caregivers encounter when supporting oral health care at home and to create a culture that values oral health as a part of overall health for Kansans of all ages, cultures and resources.

"We are pleased to receive this transformative funding that allows us to join forces with our partners to break down barriers and expand dental care access for people with disabilities across Kansas," said Tanya Dorf Brunner, executive director of Oral Health Kansas. "This grant is a testament to our ongoing work and dedication to building a truly inclusive oral health system where everyone's needs are met with dignity and care."

Oral Health Kansas will work alongside several key partners to execute this initiative, including InterHab, the Kansas Dental Association, Families Together Inc., the Community Care Network of Kansas, [Self Advocate](#) Coalition of Kansas, and many others.

Key Activities of the Grant Project Include:

1. Increasing Medicaid Dental Providers:
A statewide media campaign, technical support, and education programs like Project ECHO will help dental offices enroll as Medicaid providers and build confidence in treating individuals with disabilities.
2. Expanding the Use of [MyDental Care Passport](#):
Outreach to dental offices, IDD service providers, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities will promote the Dental Passport, which improves communication and care coordination.

Pathways to Oral Health team: Partners are the Key

- Partners will grow and include:
 - Kansas Dental Association
 - Community Care Network of Kansas
 - InterHab
 - Families Together
 - Self Advocates Coalition of Kansas
 - Individuals with disabilities and their families
 - Wichita State University
 - University of Kansas Project ECHO team
 - Project Accessible Oral Health
 - Sunflower Health Plan
 - United Healthcare Community Plan of Kansas
 - Healthy Blue
 - Compass Marketing & Advertising Partners



Goal 1: Expand My Dental Care Passport utilization to increase successful dental visits for people with IDD and autism

- Enhance My Dental Care Passport & user guides
 - Improve the Passport content
 - Ensure accessibility
- Build outreach campaign to promote to people with disabilities, dental offices, and IDD service providers
 - Identify touch points for target populations
 - Develop messages
- Launch and evaluate campaign
 - Media campaign
 - Evaluate and explore sustainability



For users: This passport is unique to you. Please fill out all information that you think is important.

For my dentist or healthcare provider: 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.

Please check the box that applies:

- I completed this form myself I completed this form with help from someone else

This form was completed with help from:

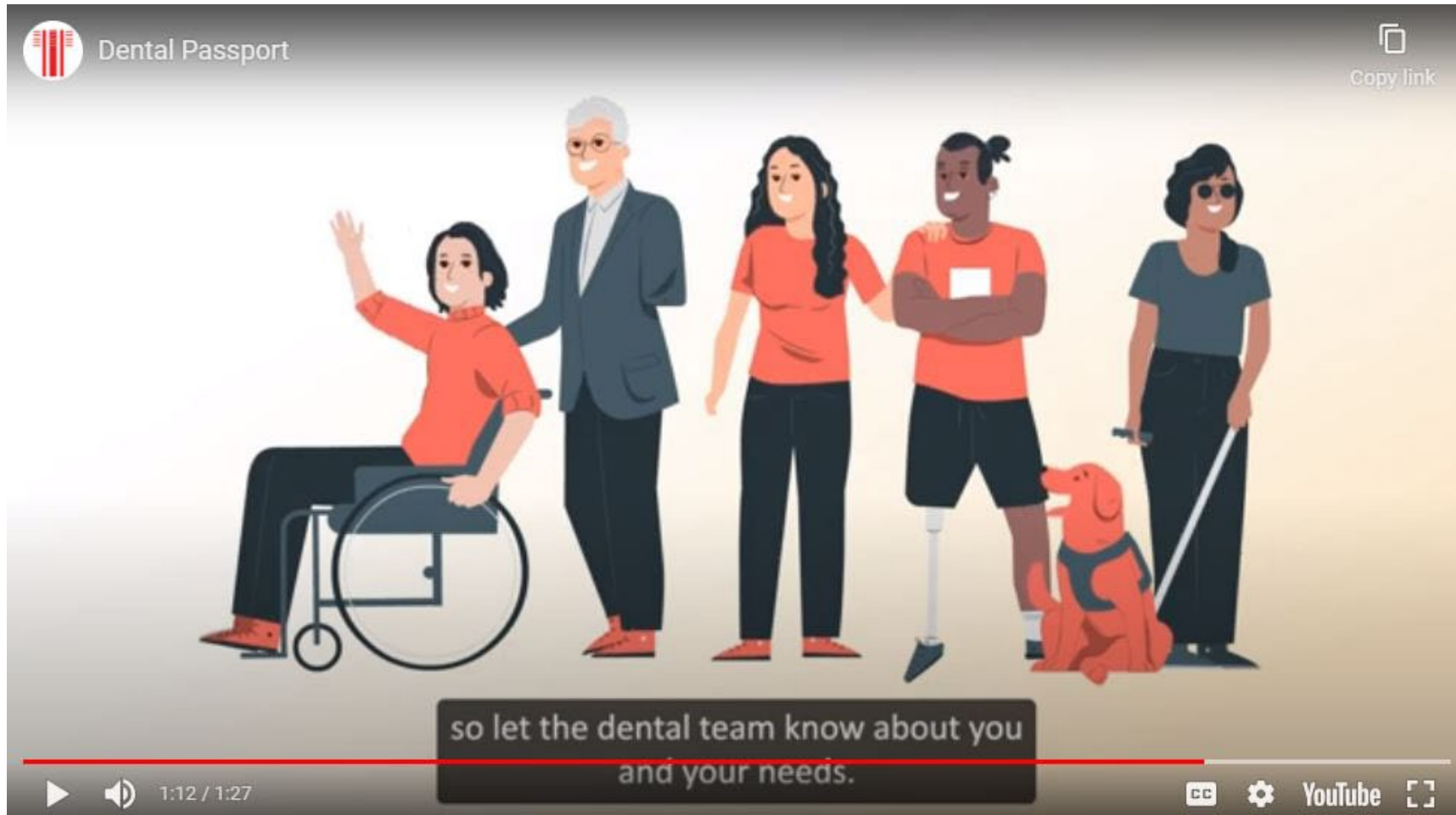
Name:
Phone:
E-mail:



My name is:

I like to be called:
Nickname if you have one.

My Dental Care Passport



<http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html>

OR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOooeIU-RDM>

Passport Excerpts

My Dental Care Passport

For users: This passport is unique to you. Please fill out all information that you think is important.

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Please check the box that applies:

- I completed this form myself I completed this form with help from someone else

This form was completed with help from:

Name: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

ABOUT ME

My name is:

I like to be called: |

Nickname if you have one.

- I am:** Male Female Transgender Male Transgender Female
 Variant/Non-conforming Not listed _____

My preferred pronoun is:

- He She They Ze Not listed _____ No preference

Where I live right now:

For example: supported living in my own home; in my family home

COMMUNICATION & BEHAVIOR

Ways that I prefer to communicate with people:

Check all that apply.

- Talk to me directly.
 Give me time to process the questions.
 I have a speech impairment and can be difficult to understand.
 It takes time to form my words so please be patient.
 Other: _____

I communicate using:

For example: speech, preferred language, sign language, communication devices or aids, pictures, non-verbal sounds. Also state if extra time/support is needed.

Here are visual or verbal cues that will be useful to know about me:

Here are the ways I communicate some things:

Worried; scared; angry: _____

Yes; Okay; I understand: _____

No; I do not understand: _____

Other: _____

On most days, I would describe myself as:

Check all that apply.

- Happy Quiet Nervous Other:
 Sleepy Loud Angry

These are the things I do sometimes that may be hard or dangerous:

For example: limb movements that may strike your hand when holding a dental tool

These are some things that can help me relax:

Check all that apply.

- Earphones to block out noise
 Eye covers to block light and activities
 An object that helps me feel relaxed/secure
For example: fidget spinner, security blanket
 Other: _____

SENSITIVITIES

These are some things that can upset me:

Check all that apply.

- Smell – office, perfume, cologne
 Sounds – music, drill, phones, voices, clock
 Sight – lights, overhead arm, mirrors, shiny tools
 Positions – chair height and tilt, being “still,” lying flat
 Closeness – people, water, light, x-ray machine
 Touch/Temp – gloves, air, gauze, water, suction, room/water temperature, toothbrushing
 Texture – toothpaste, gauze, cotton, metal
 Pressure – seeking or aversion
 Taste – gloves, toothpaste, fluoride

My Dental Care Passport

Tips and Tricks for Passport Users and their Families and Caregivers

WHAT?

My Dental Care Passport is unique to you. It allows you to tell the dental team about yourself and your needs before you enter the office. The Passport will give you prompts on topics like how you communicate, past visits to the dentist, likes and dislikes and how you move.

WHO?

Created for people with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities, the Passport can be used by both children and adults who face challenges when visiting the dentist. The Passport asks about experiences in the past and how you feel now, so you may find it helpful to have a family member or caregiver help you when you are filling it out.

WHY?

It is critical you visit the dentist to make sure your teeth and mouth are healthy. If the dentist can get to know you better as a person, they can best prepare for your visit and work to make your trip to the dentist as successful as possible.



WHERE?

Available in English and Spanish at:
www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html

OR

Scan the QR code

My Dental Care Passport

For users: This passport is unique to you. Please fill out all information that you think is important.

For my dentist or healthcare provider: 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.

Please check the box that applies:

I completed this form myself I completed this form with help from someone else

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My name is:

I like to be called:

Nickname if you have one:

I am: Male Female Transgender Male Transgender Female Variant/Non-conforming Not listed

My preferred pronoun is:

He She They Ze Not listed No preference

Where I live right now:

WHEN?

Your Passport is most useful when you complete and send it to the dental office BEFORE the day of your appointment. You should discuss with your office how they would like to receive your Passport e.g. by e-mail, by mail. This gives the dental team time to learn about you, make any necessary adjustments, and add the Passport to your records.

HOW?

- Only complete what you feel comfortable sharing. This information will only be available to the dental office team. It will not be shared with anyone else, including other healthcare providers, without your permission.
- You can complete the Passport online or you can print it and fill it out by hand.
- You may need help from a family member or caregiver to complete the Passport.



My Dental Care Passport

Tips and Tricks for the Dental Office Team

My Dental Care Passport is designed to help people with Intellectual and Development Disabilities voice their individual needs.

Use of the Passport can:

- Improve the dental team-patient relationship
- Allow you to best prepare for an appointment before an individual even enters the office
- Save time and resources
- Increase the chance of a successful visit

My Dental Care Passport is unique to the individual user. It contains personal information and descriptions of personal experiences. It is not to be shared with anyone outside of your dental office team, including other healthcare professionals, without the owners permission.

You can download the Passport:

Available in English and Spanish:

www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html

Or Scan the QR code



HOW TO USE IT?

1) Share the Passport with the patient *before* their first appointment. This can be done via e-mail, mail, QR code- please select a method that suits both your office and the patient. Advise the patient/family/caregiver to complete the document and return it to you *before* the day of their visit.

2) All members of staff who will interact with the patient should read the document prior to the individual attending the appointment. This may include the dentist, hygienist, dental assistants and reception team.

3) Discuss the appointment as a team, develop an appointment plan, and make necessary adjustments to the office environment.

4) When the patient arrives, review the Passport together and attach the document to the patient records.

5) Before the patient's next visit, review 'My Dental Care Passport'.



My Dental Care Passport Resources

<http://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalPassport.html>



- 1) My Dental Care Passport – English, Spanish and out of state
- 2) Consumer Help Sheet
- 3) Provider Help Sheet
- 4) Dental Passport Video

Goal 2: Enhance access to educational resources and at home supports for people with disabilities, families/caregivers, and providers

- Create and promote educational tools for people with disabilities and families/caregivers
 - Create short videos about toothbrushing and using adaptive aids
- Promote and provide in-person Feeling Good About Your Smile training events for people with disabilities
 - Review content, provide training, evaluate
- Create and execute educational programs for dental professionals and their teams
 - Launch a new Project ECHO series for dental teams
 - Explore a hub training model for dentists
- Create and execute educational programs for KanCare MCO care coordinators
 - Develop educational information about Medicaid dental coverage for people with disabilities
- Create educational programming for medical providers and healthcare students about the unique oral health needs of people with disabilities
 - Create a micro-lecture for healthcare students
 - Create educational materials and plan to promote them

CHANGING IT UP:

How to modify your brushing routine when your body just won't cooperate

With physical limitations, taking proper care of your teeth can sometimes feel like it is not worth the effort. But wait... did you know that problems in your mouth can lead to health issues ranging from annoying to serious? And that people with disabilities are more likely to experience dental problems? Luckily, brushing your teeth daily can help you stay healthy. When body movements are limited, toothbrushing can be tough. That's why we put together these ideas to help.



RESOURCES for Adaptive Aids

A healthy mouth helps keep your body healthy. People who brush their teeth have fewer dental problems. The products and sellers shown are only examples and not an endorsement. Finding a tool that helps you keep your mouth (and teeth) clean leads towards a healthier life.

Specialty Toothbrushes

Name	Description	Sample Seller
1. Collis Curve	Bristles reach inside, outside and biting surfaces at the same time	www.kleentee.com
2. Surround	3 bristle pads to efficiently clean all surfaces at the same time	https://specialtytoothbrush.com
3. DexTBrush	Reaches all surfaces of teeth and includes tongue cleaner	www.amazon.com
4. Toothbrush with suction	Connects directly to standard suction tubing to more easily suck out the spit and other solutions from mouth	www.rehabmart.com

ACCESSIBLE ORAL HEALTH 2023 ECHO:

BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN
SERVING PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

October 19 - November 16, 2023
12:00 - 1:00 PM CST

Feeling Good about Your Smile

AN ORAL HEALTH LEARNING SESSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- 90 minutes
- Hands on Activities
 - Acid attack experiment
 - Choosing healthy snacks
 - Finding food and germs
 - Applying the right amount of toothpaste
 - Brushing teeth



Goal 3: Develop and launch a campaign to increase the number of dental providers who are enrolled in Medicaid and providing care for people with disabilities

- Develop a Medicaid Dental Facilitator program based on a model created in Missouri
 - Hire and train a new staff member to recruit and provide technical assistance to dental offices to be Medicaid providers for people with disabilities
- Create and launch media campaign to recruit more dentists to be Medicaid providers who treat people with disabilities
 - Develop key messages
 - Implement and evaluate advertising campaign

- Explore with the KanCare MCOs to design an incentive package for providers



Improvements in Kansas Medicaid dental coverage

2019-2020

Rate increases on preventive & diagnostic services as well as fillings

\$6.0 million

2021

ADA Health Policy Institute Cost-Benefit Study for Kansas

2022

Dental coverage extended to adults: fillings, crowns, periodontal care, & Silver Diamine Fluoride

\$3.5 million

2023

Denture coverage added for adults

\$1.2 million

2024

Preventive dental coverage added for to adults: exams, x-rays, & cleanings

\$4.8 million

\$15.5 million added to the Kansas Medicaid dental program in five years.
Visit Oral Health Kansas' Medicaid adult dental benefit webpage to learn more and find fact sheets for consumers and providers

<http://oralhealthkansas.org/MedicaidAdultDentalBenefits.html>



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Consumer and Provider Resources for **Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits**

[Click here for more information](#)

<http://oralhealthkansas.org/MedicaidAdultDentalBenefits.html>

Introductory Video



<http://oralhealthkansas.org/AdultMedicaid/oral%20health%20kansas-final.mp4> or YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLGFriji4gw>

Consumer Resources



For Consumers

- Frequently Asked Questions, including who is eligible and what services are covered
- Download this flyer to learn what dental services are covered and how to find a provider and transportation to appointments.

[Adult Medicaid Benefits Flyer - English](#)

[Adult Medicaid Benefits Flyer - Spanish](#)

- Frequently Asked Questions
- One-page overview of the benefits in English and Spanish

Provider Resources

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Link to enroll as a provider
- List of all covered codes and rates
- Video interview about the value and importance of being a Medicaid provider



For Providers

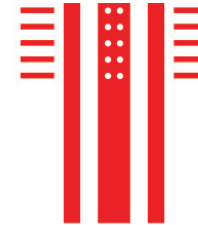
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#), including who is eligible and how a practice can understand the needs of Medicaid consumers.
- [Enroll](#) to become a Medicaid provider.
- [List of codes](#) covered in the new benefit and the rates for each.
- **Dr. Aaron Bumann**, Kansas City, Missouri, pediatric dentist shares myths and facts about being a Medicaid dental provider in this [video](#).

Scan the QR code



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