

July 21, 2019

**Report to the GLAO Board
Council on Orthodontic Health Care -Summer 2019**

The Council on Orthodontic Health Care (COHC) met in St. Louis on June 22, 2019. The following are highlights of the discussions:

MEDICALLY NECESSARY ORTHODONTIC CARE

The 2019 AAO House approved a new definition of Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care as well as approving an AutoQualifier Protocol to adjudicate claims. COHC will work with COC to promote the new policy positions.

COHC also proposed a new AAO policy position to go to the House regarding dental insurance:

Stand-alone dental insurance plans provide a greater level of comprehensive dental benefit to the public than medical plans with an imbedded dental benefit.

Furthermore, representatives of COHC and/or AAO staff members be authorized to implement this policy.

ACCESS TO ORTHODONTIC HEALTH CARE

COHC is charged with identifying and evaluating access to care programming and to forward recommendations as appropriate to the AAO BOT. Since summer 2018, the AAOF has considered taking oversight of AAO Donated Orthodontic Services (AAO DOS) in a restructure suggested by the AAO Executive Director. AAOF has concerns over the administration of AAO DOS and its performance as an 'Access' program and how AAO DOS may deflect from the main purpose of the AAOF to fund orthodontic research.

A year ago, COHC also evaluated the AAO DOS program and felt that it was not performing as well as other access programs, most specifically Smile Change Lives (SCL). COHC recommended to the AAO DOS Board that they consider changing administration of the program to SCL. The AAO DOS Board did not move on the action pending the AAOF transition.

Again, in June, COHC recommended to the AAO BOT that the AAO partner with Smiles Change Lives to increase access to orthodontic care for underserved populations.

CODING

COHC discussed direct-to-consumer tooth moving devices and the implicit conundrum of 'product' versus 'professional service'. The AAO recommended in March 2019 at the ADA Code Maintenance Committee Meeting (CMC) to modify the Teledentistry codes and the preamble

to the Orthodontic section. The changes were not adopted. Some dental insurance providers are now collaborating with direct-to-consumer providers and the insurance cohort unanimously opposed the changes.

In May, the AAO House modified the Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) to incorporate a definition of what constitutes 'orthodontic treatment'. COHC recommends that the CPG definition of orthodontic treatment become incorporated into the ADA Code. COHC representatives will be working with the ADA Council on Dental Benefits as well as other dental specialty representatives in advance of the CMC on this modification.

CRANIOFACIAL ANOMOLIES LEGISLATION

The 2018 AAO House created policy endorsing ongoing insurance reimbursement for serving individuals with Craniofacial Anomalies. The AAO BOT has earmarked \$50,000 to support this type of regulation and legislation. The AAO is now part of the team pushing the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act in the US Congress. Also, several states are introducing similar legislation. The AAO will seek to collaborate with the ADA and state dental associations to promote this legislation.

TELEDENTISTRY

The AAO legal team has created a set of parameters for teledentistry legislation and regulation. As the AAO becomes aware of proposed regulations it has been sharing the parameters with state boards and other interested organizations and at relevant events.

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