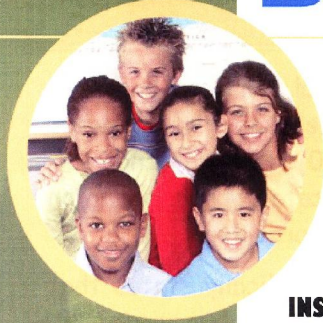


Bridgeport News

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From the Desk of Walt Pfitzinger, DDS

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MO HealthNet Program Dental Benefits for Pregnant Women

As we announced in our Fall Newsletter, effective October 1, 2009, pregnant women 21 years and older are now eligible to receive dental services as part of the MO HealthNet Program schedule of benefits. However, there are some limitations to their benefits.

- Orthodontic services are not part of their benefit package.
- Some crowns are age specific and limited to members under the age of 21.

Please refer to your MO HealthNet Provider Manual or contact our customer service department if you have questions regarding the dental benefits for adult pregnant women.



“Delta Difference” Scholarship

Congratulations to Jessica Monroe of Columbia, Missouri. She was named the 2009 recipient of Delta Dental of Missouri’s “Delta Difference” Dental Student Scholarship.

In exchange for the scholarship covering the cost of four years of tuition, books, supplies, and room and board, Monroe will fulfill a three-year commitment to practice dentistry in an underserved area in Missouri.



Code D3120-Indirect Pulp Caps

Bridgeport Dental Services has seen an increase in the number of providers billing for D3210 - Pulp Cap Indirect, which could indicate abusive billing on the part of some providers.

CDT 2009-10 specifically states that adhesives, liners and bases are included as part of the restoration and that code D3120 (indirect pulp cap) should not be used for bases and liners when all the caries have been removed.

The incidence of the use of this code nationwide is less than 1 in 200 restorations, thus it is clear that this code is not to be used to report bases or cavity liners. Bridgeport will more closely monitor the use of this code among its participating providers.

National Children's Dental Health Month

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. NCDHM messages and materials have reached millions of people in communities across the country.

Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

Whether you're a member of the dental team, a teacher or a parent, the ADA has free online resources that can help you with oral health presentations, ideas for the classroom, and coloring and activity sheets that can be used as handouts. Visit their website at www.ADA.org.