

# **Council on Dental Benefit Programs**

## **Action Plan**

### **Purpose:**

The Council on Dental Benefit Programs serves to enhance the practice of dentistry in New Jersey by addressing the challenges our members face with third-party payers. The Council is dedicated to educating and assisting members in understanding dental coding and billing processes, ensuring they are informed about updates to CDT Codes and terminology. We strive to establish and maintain open communication with third-party carriers to advocate for our members' interests. Additionally, the Council is committed to monitoring and addressing Medicaid and access to care issues within the state, while also reviewing legislative matters that impact the dental profession.

### **Duties:**

1. To report on issues our members are having with third party payers.
2. To educate and assist members on understanding coding and 24 billing.
3. To update members regarding any changes to the CDT Codes or terminology.
4. To establish and maintain dialog with third party carriers, as practicable.
5. To receive reports regarding Medicaid and access to care issues in the State of New Jersey.
6. To receive reports regarding legislative issues that relate to the practice of dentistry, and to maintain communication with the Council on Government and Public Affairs.
7. To maintain communication with the 4th District Representative to the ADA Council on Dental Benefits.

### **Composition:**

The Council on Dental Benefit Programs shall be composed of:

- a Chairperson and a member from each component society, who shall be designated by the component society.
  - a. The Chairperson may or may not be appointed from the designated members, at the discretion of the President, but must be a fully privileged member of this Association. All members of the Council must hold membership in the American Dental Association.
  - b. The Chair cannot serve more than five (5) consecutive one (1) year terms.

- a representative from each of the recognized dental specialties as listed by the national Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards
- a representative from the New Jersey Academy of General Dentistry
- a representative from any recognized professional dental association may serve on the Council.
- Chair appointed by President within or without the Council but cannot serve more than five (5) consecutive one (1) year terms. Vice Chair must be elected by the Council.

Time Commitment:

The Council meets approximately three to four times a year, via Zoom or in person at the discretion of the Chair. The duration of the meetings is approximately 2 hours.

Participation Expectations:

**Terms:** The term of office of members of councils shall be one (1) year except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

**Attendance:** The tenure of office of a member of a council can be terminated by the Board of Trustees in accordance with Article IV if the member has been absent from three consecutive regularly called meetings of the council.

**Engagement:** As a member of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs, your active engagement is crucial to advancing our mission and supporting the needs of our members. We rely on your expertise, commitment to staying informed on dental benefits issues, and dedication to attending and contributing to council meetings. By actively engaging with members to understand their challenges, fostering open communication with council colleagues and association leadership, and promoting educational opportunities, you help ensure our council's actions align with and effectively advocate for our members. Together, we drive meaningful improvements for New Jersey's dental community.

**Conduct:** The Association is committed to the principle that all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect. The Association strongly disapproves of any action or conduct by members or employees which constitutes harassment of an individual on account of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, national origin or any other characteristic protected by law.

Resources:

**Chair:** Dr. Michelle Weddle

Phone number: 908-561-0225

Email: [drweddle@greatsmilesnj.com](mailto:drweddle@greatsmilesnj.com)

**Staff Liaison:** Orville Morales

Phone number: 732-422-2705

Email: [omorales@njda.org](mailto:omorales@njda.org)

**General Inquires:**

NJDA Office number: 732-821-9400

Email: [info@njda.org](mailto:info@njda.org)