

THE REALITY OF MEDICARE PART B DENTAL & WHY EVERY DENTIST IN TEXAS SHOULD CARE

Right now, Congress is considering a Medicare dental benefit in Part B. You may think this will not affect your dental practice, but you would be wrong. We can't ignore what is happening right now in Washington DC.

Every dentist will be negatively impacted if Congress adopts Medicare Part B dental. The Medicare Dental Coverage Act of 2021 claims to be a generous dental benefit for all eligible seniors, those age 65 and older. **The reality is that this program will not bring dental care to those seniors most in need and will damage the dental profession for every dentist.**

PATIENT LOSS

Patients age 65 and older will likely want the free Medicare dental benefit and leave your practice if you opt out of Medicare. Dentists currently participating in commercial Medicare Advantage plans may see patients drop the coverage and migrate to traditional Medicare.



DRIVE INSURANCE FEE SCHEDULES DOWN FOR ALL DENTISTS

Look at physicians to see the devastating impact Medicare had on commercial medical insurance. As in medicine, Medicare will become the benchmark for commercial dental insurance rates. Even if you are a pediatric dentist, you will still feel the effects of Medicare dental when commercial insurance reimbursement rates are drastically cut, driving reimbursement far below the actual cost of providing the dental care.

UNDERFUNDED AND ADMINISTRATIVE NIGHTMARE

The current proposal includes **ALL** Medicare eligible seniors, even for wealthy seniors (like Warren Buffett and Bill Gates!) with **INSUFFICIENT** funding. This makes zero sense.

Medicare Part B was created for physicians, not dentists. Dental does not fit into Medicare Part B. Dentists are the surgeon, anesthesiologist, and hospital.

Congress could cut funding to private Medicare Advantage Plans to offset the cost of the new Medicare dental benefit. Seniors could lose their dental benefits, have benefits reduced, and lose other non-dental services from their Advantage plan.



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FRUSTRATED PATIENTS, FRUSTRATED DENTISTS

The most vulnerable seniors will not receive the help they need because their out-of-pocket fees will be unaffordable. If Congress implements cost-sharing, low-income seniors will still not be able to afford their portion of the Medicare dental benefit. They will continue suffering and going to emergency rooms for dental pain and infection.



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