



Summary of Oral Health Provisions in Health Reform Legislation

Coverage and Access

- Requires that insurance plans in the Exchange include oral care for children.
- Preventive services in Exchange plans must be free of cost, including services for preventive pediatric oral health services.
- Stand-alone dental plans may participate in the Exchange (with some additional rules).
- Includes oral health services in qualified services at school-based health centers receiving additional federal grants.
- Exempts dental coverage from the premium amounts subject to excise tax on high cost insurance plans.

Prevention and Infrastructure

- Establishes a 5-year, evidence based public education campaign to promote oral health with a focus on childhood caries, prevention, oral health of pregnant women and oral health of at-risk populations.
- Requires that all states receive grants for school-based dental sealant programs (currently only 16 states benefit from these grants, with Illinois being one).
- Implements water fluoridation and preventive programs.
- Requires the CDC to enter into cooperative agreements with states to improve oral health infrastructure.
- Improves and updates national oral health surveillance.
- Authorizes the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) to review payments for dental services in Medicaid and CHIP, and reaffirms that dentists will be members of the Commission.

Workforce and Training

- Establishes a 5-year, 15-site, demonstration program to “train or employ” alternative dental health care providers, defining “alternative dental providers” to include currently proposed new dental professionals and others to be determined by the HHS Secretary.
- Creates a National Health Care Workforce Commission with oral health care workforce issues as a designated priority.
- Increases eligibility for new grant programs in the Title VII Health Professions Programs to train dental and allied dental health professionals.
- Establishes a dental faculty loan repayment program for faculty engaged in primary care dentistry
- Supports stipends and loan repayments to institutions (including dental schools) which obligate trainees to serve in the National Health Service Corps.
- Establishes three year grants to establish new primary care residency programs, including dental programs.
- Provides new funding for new and expanding graduate medical education, including dental education.

Information compiled from the [Children's Dental Health Project](#) (last updated 3-15-11)