

Texas Medicaid Updates

Texas HHSC will conduct a rate hearing on Tuesday, 11/14/23 at 9:00 AM CST.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will conduct a hearing to receive public comment on proposed Medicaid payment rates detailed [in this document \(Rate packet information on G0330\)](#) on November 14, 2023, at 9:00 AM. G0330 will be implemented for both hospital and ASCs. Implementation goal is September 1, 2024.

Members of the public may attend the rate hearing in person, which will be held in Public Hearing Rooms 1.401, 1.402, 1.403 and 1.404 in the North Austin Complex, 4601 W Guadalupe St, Austin, Texas. Please register for HHSC Public Rate Hearing for Medicaid Reimbursement Rates on November 14, 2023 9:00 AM CDT at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/44179910691418972>

HHSC will consider all concerns expressed at the hearing prior to final rate approval. This public hearing will be held in compliance with the provisions of Human Resources Code §32.0282 which requires a public hearing on proposed payment rate adjustments.

CMS Final Rule

Includes Important Oral Health Clarification

On November 2nd Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that announced finalized policy changes for Medicare payments under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS). The rule included clarification to reimbursement for dental services necessary to the clinical success of certain cancer treatments.

An additional important note is that the 2023 PFS also established an annual process for stakeholders to nominate additional clinical scenarios for Medicare payment of oral health care. This nominations process will take place again early next year. The Center will have a webinar in early 2024 to discuss oral health and will include a discussion of the nominations process.

Read the full article from the Center for Medicare Advocacy [here](#).

Find the CMS Fact Sheet on the 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule [here](#) and the Statement from The Consortium for Medically Necessary Oral Health Coverage [here](#).

Dallas Community Water Fluoridation Update

We have been keeping you all apprised of the recent events of the Dallas City Council regarding community water fluoridation. To learn the outcome from these recent committee briefings, please read the article linked below from Kera News on November 7, 2023.

On October 16, 2023 Dr. Mary Swift with the Texas Dental Association, Dr. Johnny Johnson of the American Fluoridation Society, and Dr. Philip Huang and Dr. Anh Nguyen with Dallas County Health and Human Services presented a briefing on community water fluoridation to the City of Dallas Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee (CDQLAC). At the end of the presentation a second briefing was requested by the committee chair to hear from the other side of the topic.

Anti-fluoridationists had their CDQLAC committee briefing on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 with Fluoride Committee Co-Chair Dr. Griffin Cole from the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, researcher Dr. Bruce Lanphear with Simon Fraser University, and Dr. John Staniland from the Fluoride Action Network presenting.

Find the recordings of both briefings here:

- [November 7th briefing](#) (presentation begins at 1:17:14)
- [October 16th briefing](#) (presentation begins at 00:38)

Additionally a number of articles have been posted about the recent events including the following:

- [Kera News, November 7, 2023 - Opposing panels battle over fluoridating water before Dallas city council members](#)
- [Dallas Morning News, November 6, 2023 - Why is Dallas City Hall humoring fluoride conspiracy theorists?](#)
- [Dallas Observer, November 7, 2023 - Dallas Continues Its 'Dumb Conversations' About Fluoride](#)
- [D Magazine, October 17, 2023 - The Dumbest Conversation Ever to Take Place at Dallas City Hall](#)

\$20K in 20 Days Fundraising Campaign

In celebration of TxOHC's 20th anniversary in 2024, the Coalition will be conducting a special fundraising campaign to raise \$20K in 20 days. This campaign began on November 8, 2023 and will end on Giving Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

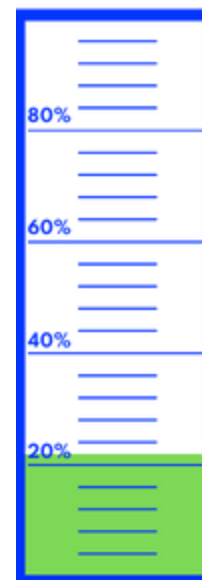
TxOHC was established on November 17, 2004 and for the last 20 years has worked to increase oral health awareness, increase Interprofessional collaboration, improve public oral health and increase access to care. We are seeking your assistance to make this milestone our most impactful year to date. Your support, no matter the size, sustains our programs and drives positive change.

As of November 13, 2023, we have raised 21% of our \$20,000 goal! A sincere and well-deserved thank you to all our supporters thus far!

There is still time to join us and learn to become a subject matter expert, how you can participate in the focus area of your choice, broaden your network, develop new skills, and feed the fire that fuels your passion. The Coalition is vital to the state and our local communities and we need your participation and support to continue our work as a thriving and impactful statewide coalition.

To make a donation and support our work, please visit <https://txohc.org/donate/> and we also invite you to become an active member or partner of the Texas Oral Health Coalition and join our efforts today at <https://txohc.org/get-involved/membership/>.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your participation.



DONATE

El Paso Regional Oral Health Coalition

We are excited to announce the virtual launch of our El Paso Regional Oral Health Coalition this Friday, **November 17, 2023 at 3:00 PM MT** hosted by TxOHC and our El Paso ROHC Coordinator Dr. Wilma Luquis-Aponte, DMD, PhD.

Dr. Wilma Luquis-Aponte, DMD, PhD, DPH is an Associate Professor at Texas Tech University Health Science Center - Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine and has graciously agreed to serve as the El Paso Regional Coalition Coordinator. We are indeed fortunate to find a leader and dental care provider with over 20 years' experience in staff in-training, policies and protocols, professional organizational leadership, education and mentoring, business management and special needs dentistry.



If you are interested in improving the health and wellbeing of El Paso citizens and promoting partnerships for sustainable, equity-informed, community-driven advocacy

join us November 17, 2023 by registering for the meeting at <https://bit.ly/EIP-Launch> and learn how you can participate in your local community.



EL PASO LAUNCH

NOVEMBER 17, 2023 - 3:00-4:00 PM MST



[BIT.LY/ELP-LAUNCH](https://bit.ly/ELP-LAUNCH)



National Mobile and Teledentistry Conference

TxOHC members receive \$100 discount on registration



**TEXAS
TELEDENTISTRY
STAKEHOLDER
MEETING**

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL
MOBILE & TELEDENTISTRY CONFERENCE

WWW.NMDCONFERENCE.COM

Friday,
March 1,
2024

12:30pm

Hyatt Regency
Frisco-Texas

RSVP by 1/31/24 at
info@nmdconference.com

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:




The Texas Oral Health Coalition and the American Mobile & Teledentistry Alliance is pleased to cohost the Texas Teledentistry Stakeholder Meeting on Friday, March 1, 2024 at 12:30 PM CT held in conjunction with the National Mobile & Teledentistry Conference.

You will not need a conference ticket to attend the stakeholder meeting, but you will need to RSVP at info@nmdconference.com. For anyone attending the stakeholder meeting who would like to attend the entire conference (plus Denobi Awards), you can use **promo code NMTC100** for a discounted ticket at <http://www.nmdconference.com/>.

Please spread the word through your networks as this is an integral part of dentistry in Texas. Targeted attendees are all stakeholders: clinicians, educators, legislators, leaders of professional associations, community/school district/health department leads, and dental educators.

We look forward to seeing you there!



November 17th Quarterly Member Meeting

TXOHC QUARTERLY MEMBER MEETING
Friday, November 17, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM CT

Regional Oral Health Coalitions will meet in separate breakout rooms for 45 minutes then everyone returns the last 45 minutes for coalitions to report out.

Join at:
https://bit.ly/TxOHC_MEM

TXOHC TEXAS ORAL HEALTH COALITION

The Coalition is pleased to host quarterly member meetings on the third Friday of the designated month from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM CT.

This is an excellent opportunity to participate at your local level. We encourage all members to actively engage in their regional coalitions to share resources, leverage innovative information and create viable solutions to address local challenges.

If you have not joined your regional coalition you may do so [here](#).

Upcoming meetings:

- November 17, 2023

Registration is complimentary but required at <https://bit.ly/QtrMtg> to receive your meeting link and passcode.

TxOHC Member Spotlight

TxOHC Member Announcement

We are pleased to welcome the following new members since November 6, 2023.

Individual Member

Jessica Olague

Community Liaison, PDN Children's Development Center
El Paso, TX

Venkata Naga nalini Dhurjati, BDS

Student, Texas A&M University, School of Dentistry
Eules, TX

Vanessa Cisneros, RDH, BSDH

Faculty, El Paso Community College
Canutillo, TX

Career Opportunity- Dental Hygienist UTMB - Correctional Managed Care

Full-time dental hygienists opening with benefits for the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)-Correctional Managed Care. The division of UTMB that provides care to the incarcerated population in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The position is shared between the Estes, Lindsey, and Bridgeport Facilities located in Venus, Bridgeport and Jacksboro, Texas.

Applications are accepted online at www.utmb.edu, search Careers. Any questions applicants can call or email Pamela Myers, RDH, Manager, Dental Hygiene Program at pjmyers@UTMB.edu.

**With much appreciation and sincerest gratitude,
we wish to thank our Coalition Partners!**



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CookChildren's
Center for Community Health

TxOHC CDE Opportunities

Oral health providers may obtain 1.0 CDE for every one(1) hour of lecture. Online courses to choose from include:

- **HPV - Healthy Smiles - *NEW***
 - The Healthy Smiles Project: Increasing HPV Vaccination through Interprofessional Partnerships with Dental Hygienists
 - Framing HPV Immunization Education for Maximum Patient Acceptance
- **Teledentistry**
 - Teledentistry in Texas: Opportunities to Increase Access to Care
 - Selection of Teledentistry Platforms and Utilization in Alternative Care Settings

- *Available for edification only – Taking the Mystery Out of Billing for Virtual Visits*
- **Treating Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD)**
 - Providing Dental Care under Advanced Anesthesia: Oral Sedation, IV Sedation, TIVA, IV Mac, and General Anesthesia
 - Special Conditions and Barriers and Challenges Providing Dental Care to Patients with IDD
 - Understanding and Working with Caregivers and Group Homes, Dental Desensitization/Advanced Behavior Techniques for Patients with IDD at AbSSLC
- **Prescribers**
 - Mental Health & Opioid Use Disorder: Using the PMP to improve patient-centered care & communication
 - Statewide Mandate Compliance Using the PMP to Provide Patient-Centered Care
 - Maximizing Your Limited Time: Navigating Challenging Patient Conversations
- **Prenatal**
 - Maternal Depression: Signs, Facts & Resources
 - Who Do You Call: Making the Referral Connection
 - Do No Harm: The Ethics, Myths & Business of Caring for Pregnant People
- **Oral Pathology**
 - Oral Cancer Update
 - Oral Manifestations of Systemic Diseases and Conditions
 - Common Lesions of the Oral Cavity, from Diagnosis to Treatment

To access any of these courses, please visit <https://txohc.org/education/self-instructional-webinars/>.

TxOHC Members-Only Listserv

A friendly reminder to all of our members that the Coalition has a private members-only listserv. This is where you can share information, resources, and discuss current topics.

Please complete this short online form linked below and **reply to the email confirmation to complete the process.** <https://txohc.org/get->

[involved/membership/m-o-mail-list/](#)

Thank you and we look forward to your participation.

**Many thanks to our Organizational Members for
your support and collaboration!**



Join [here](#) if your organization is interested in joining our efforts to improve the oral healthcare system in Texas.