

# Attachment 8

## Oral Health Connections Pilot Project Description

In Section 213(1)(nn) of the Substitute Senate Bill 5883 (2017) and Section 213(1)(oo) of SSB 6032 (2018), HCA was directed to implement the Oral Health Connections Pilot Project, modeled after the ABCD program (See Attachment 6). The directive to HCA and Arcora (previously known as Washington Dental Foundation) is to work jointly from inception to completion of the program. Implementation is set for January 1, 2019 and the pilot project will run for three (3) years.

The Oral Health Connections Pilot Project's purpose is to integrate oral-systemic health care in two predetermined populations, in three select counties in anticipation of influencing health outcomes and controlling chronic disease. Adults with diabetes and pregnant women (not including Dual-Eligible Clients), located in Cowlitz, Thurston, or Spokane counties are the target populations of the Oral Health Connections Pilot Project.

Arcora is responsible for:

- Financing and developing, in partnership with the University of Washington (UW), a training module and exam for participating dental providers;
- Providing the exam, in partnership with UW;
- Notifying HCA, within 5 business days, of successful course completion by participating dental providers;
- Developing tools and systems to assist medical providers with oral assessments;
- Developing referral and patient care coordination tools;
- Developing systems and processes to facilitate shared care between medical and dental providers;
- Developing systems and processes to assist dental provider offices in scheduling and keeping appointments;
- Recruiting dental providers to participate in the program;
- Attending local and statewide dental provider association meetings;
- Educating providers about the pilot, including background, duration, enhanced fees, and indicators;
- Recruiting and educating of medical providers on demographics of Oral Health Connections Pilot Project target populations;
- Training medical providers about oral systemic link between oral health and diabetes and/or pregnancy, including how to address oral health in medical settings while reinforcing the importance of medical and dental collaboration; and
- Developing and implementing an Oral Health Connections Pilot Project evaluation tool.

Both medical and dental Oral Health Connections Pilot Project providers will use a referral tool developed by Arcora, called DentistLink, to connect Clients to dental providers in the following ways:

- Medical provider will refer Clients diagnosed with diabetes or pregnancy to a trained dental provider participating in the Oral Health Connections Pilot Project through DentistLink;

- Medical Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will refer Enrollees, with flagged qualifying diagnosis(es), through care coordination and DentistLink;

Dental providers will coordinate with medical providers through DentistLink to receive referrals for patients who are in the two identified target populations. Dental providers will be educated in the specifics of intervention and training for the identified Client population. The Oral Health Connections Pilot Project will also test the effects an enhanced dental benefit has on access to dental care, health care outcomes, and related medical costs.

Trained, participating dental providers will be eligible for enhanced reimbursement rates for specific CDT codes per Oral Health Connections Pilot Project guidelines. Periodontal health, in specific, will be the target of the enhancements. Medicaid will pay enhanced fees for codes D0150 (Comprehensive Oral Exam), D0210 (Intraoral complete series of radiographic images), D0274 (Bitewings four radiographic images), D4341 (Periodontal Scaling and Root Planing-4 or more teeth), D4342 (Periodontal Scaling and Root Planing 3 or more teeth per quadrant), D4910 (Periodontal maintenance). The Client will be eligible to receive up to three (3) additional D4910 (periodontal maintenance) per twelve-month period.

The Oral Health Connections Pilot Project success will be determined through measures evaluating access, cost, and health outcomes.