



ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM:

Activities of the Oral Health Program:

The Oral Health Program has added a page to the OHP website for Continuing Education. Two courses will be added very soon. You may access these courses by following links provided in the following website: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/26868.htm>

- 1) Infection Control in Dental Facilities in Indiana
- 2) Dentistry and Basic Non-Opioid Prescribing in Pain

News and Events:

The next Indiana Oral Health Coalition (IOHC) meeting will be held at the Indiana State Department of Health, 5th floor conference room 5T, from 10 a.m. to noon on September 9.

The 2016 INShape Indiana Black and Minority Health Fair will take place from Thursday, July 14, to Sunday, July 17, during the annual Indiana Black Expo Summer Celebration. The event will offer free health screenings, health education, and health resources. For more information, visit: www.minorityhealth.isdh.in.gov.

ISDH Current News:

Warmer weather increases the risk of mosquito bites. State health officials are urging Hoosiers to protect themselves against mosquito bites at home and abroad to prevent mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus and Zika virus.



To find some ways to prevent mosquito bites, visit the following website from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/fs_mosquito_bite_prevention_us.pdf

ORAL HEALTH TOPIC:

Dental Coverage for Senior Citizens on Medicare:

Medicare doesn't cover most dental care, dental procedures, or supplies, like cleanings, dental restorations, tooth extractions, dentures, partial dentures, or other dental devices. Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) will pay for certain dental services that you get when you're in a hospital. Part A can pay for inpatient hospital care if you need to have emergency or complicated dental procedures, even though the dental care isn't covered.¹

Currently, Medicare will pay for dental services that are a necessary part either of a covered procedure (e.g., reconstruction of the jaw following accidental injury), or for extractions done in preparation for radiation treatment for neoplastic diseases involving the jaw. Medicare will also make payments for oral examinations, but not treatment, preceding a kidney transplant or heart

valve replacement, under certain circumstances. Such examinations would be covered under Part A if performed by a dentist on the hospital's staff or under Part B if performed by a physician.²

Some Medicare Advantage Plans have the option of adding Dental or Vision coverage as a rider on the policy. There are also affordable dental discount plans for seniors on Medicare, some of which include other benefits such as prescription drug coverage and vision coverage. These discount plans offer reduced service fees for members. You may also purchase private dental insurance through an insurance agent or employer insurance program, if you are still employed. The cost of a dental plan can vary by plan and provider. It is recommended that you compare the different types of dental plans in your area and assess your dental health needs in order to choose a plan that is right for you.



More information for this topic may be found at the links below:

- ✓ **eHealth Medicare**
<http://www.ehealthmedicare.com/about-medicare/dental/>
 - ✓ **Consumer Guide to Dentistry**
<http://www.yourdentistryguide.com/uninsured/>
 - ✓ **Medicare Consumer Guide**
<http://www.medicareconsumerguide.com/medicare-dental>
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REFERENCES:

1. **Dental Services.** Medicare.gov. Retrieved 5/1/2016
2. **Medicare Dental Coverage.** CMS. Retrieved 5/1/2016

REMINDERS:

The **Oral Health Topic** section of the newsletter is suitable for the general public and may be shared with your patients or people in your community interested in oral health. We welcome any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in this section. Suggestions may be made to Linda Hillers at LHillers@isdh.IN.gov.

These newsletters are archived on the OHP website at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/18695.htm> under the section entitled **Newsletters**. This website contains other information about oral health that may be of interest to you.

Note: If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please contact Linda Hillers at LHillers@isdh.IN.gov or Patty Morris at PMorris@isdh.IN.gov.

Disclaimer: The materials provided in the Oral Health Topic's section are for informational purposes only. Individuals should see an oral health professional to discuss any specific oral health issues.