

Conference Paper

Guidelines Issues Workshop Report

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Panel members: Dr. Sheldon Bernick, Broomall, Pa; Dr. Mark Wagner, Pikesville, Md; Dr. Burton L. Nussbaum, Cherry Hill, NJ.

Abstract: *The workshop on guidelines met to review the aspects of the symposium related to oral health policies and guidelines proffered by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and other organizations. Workgroup recommendations were reported regarding: (1) the AAPD mission and vision statements; (2) AAPD policies and guidelines; (3) communication and collaboration between the AAPD and outside entities; and (4) AAPD endorsement of the Special Care Dentistry Act. (Pediatr Dent 2007;29:148-9)*

KEYWORDS: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS, GUIDELINES, POLICIES, WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) vision and mission statements

In reviewing the AAPD's vision and mission statements, the workgroup recommended revising the present vision statement to read as follows (additions italicized): "The vision of the AAPD is optimal health and care for all infants, children, adolescents and persons with special health care needs. The AAPD is the leader in representing the oral health interests of infants, children, adolescents, and persons with special health care needs."

The workgroup also recommended revising the mission statement to read as follows (additions italicized): "The mission of the AAPD is to advocate policies, guidelines, and programs that promote optimal oral health and oral health care for infants, children, adolescents, and persons with special health care needs."

AAPD policies and guidelines/AAPD strategic plan

Because outside entities use individual policies and guidelines without necessarily reviewing the AAPD's vision and mission statements, the workgroup recommended that each AAPD policy and guideline be written to stand alone for use by outside entities. In doing so, it should be clear that per-

sons with special health care needs (PSHCN) are included in each policy and guideline.

To ensure that all policies and guidelines incorporate PSCHN, the workgroup recommended having the AAPD strategic plan include a strategy to make PSCHN a special focus in all AAPD initiatives and council deliberations for the coming year.

Many PSCHN require creative solutions to obtain optimal oral health. Therefore, the workgroup recommended revising the existing AAPD guideline entitled "management of persons with special health care needs" to delineate when it is acceptable to use alternative diagnostic tools and adaptive patient-centered treatment planning.

The workgroup recommended that the AAPD develop a new policy statement addressing the issue of "transitioning" patients from the pediatric dentist to a general dentist and other specialists.

The workgroup recommended that all AAPD policies and guidelines be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the Patient Bills of Rights (Belmont Report).¹

Organizations outside the AAPD

To address the lack of access to care for adults with special health care needs (ASHCN), the workshop recommended that the AAPD explore the background and feasibility of creating a new specialty for the dental care of ASHCN.

The workshop recommended that the AAPD work with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to obtain its support of the concept that dental care is medically necessary for prevention, control, and elimination of orofacial infection,

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pain, and disease, and for correcting facial disfiguration or dysfunction.

To improve access to dental care for PSCHN, the workshop recommended that the AAPD send a need statement to the American Dental Education Association to require “humanities” training at the dental school level, with a special focus during the fourth year of dental education.

To fairly compensate dental providers for time spent managing PSHCN, the workgroup recommended that the AAPD advocate for a supplemental Medicaid reimbursement, similar to the new Medicaid code developed in the Arizona Medicaid Program.

To improve access to dental specialist care, the workgroup recommended that the AAPD communicate with other dental specialty organizations to encourage their members to provide care for PSHCN.

To emphasize the importance of excellent dental health for PSCHN, the workgroup recommended that the AAPD support the AAP in its efforts to require training in oral health as a requirement for accreditation of a pediatric medicine residency programs.

Legislation

The guidelines workshop recommended that the AAPD continue to endorse the Special Care Dentistry Act (H.R.4624) sponsored by the Special Care Dentistry Association to improve the oral health care benefits for PSCHN within the Medicaid program.

References

1. US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The Belmont Report. Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research. Washington, DC: The National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedicine and Behavioral Research; 1979.