

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** MA Dental Services

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### Overview

This bill makes various changes related to MA coverage of dental services. The bill expands MA coverage of dental services for adults, provides coverage for oral health screenings, increases MA dental reimbursement rates, requires the commissioner to issue a grant to design a new dental reimbursement system, and establishes a work group on oral health system administrative simplification.

#### Section

**1**      **Dental services.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 9. Modifies MA coverage of dental services for nonpregnant adults as follows:

- ▶ provides coverage of a full-mouth series of x-rays, if panoramic x-rays cannot be taken
- ▶ provides coverage of nonsurgical treatment for periodontal disease, including scaling, root planning, and routine periodontal maintenance procedures, limited to once per year

Also modifies coverage of services for adults that may be provided in an outpatient hospital setting or freestanding ambulatory surgical center, as follows:

- ▶ allows coverage of periodontics every year, rather than every two years
- ▶ provides coverage for a comprehensive oral exam and full-mouth series of x-rays, and strikes the reference to coverage of a full-mouth survey every five years

## Section

- 2     **Diagnostic, screening, and preventive services.** Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 14. Provides MA coverage of oral health screenings provided by a licensed dental provider (dental hygienist, dental therapist, or advanced dental therapist) in collaborative practice, and specifies other criteria for coverage.
- 3     **Dental reimbursement.** Amends § 256B.76, subd. 2. Effective July 1, 2015, sets MA payment rates for dental services at the lower of: (1) the submitted charge; or (2) 50 percent of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of 2012 charges. States that this payment rate does not apply to state-operated dental clinics. Makes conforming changes and strikes obsolete language. Adjusts payments to managed care and county-based purchasing plans effective January 1, 2016.
- 4     **New dental payment system for Minnesota health care programs.**
- Subd. 1. Development of new reimbursement system.** Directs the commissioner of human services to provide a grant to a public higher education institution dental school to develop a new reimbursement system for oral health and dental services for MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees. Specifies criteria for the system.
- Subd. 2. Oversight committee.** Requires the grantee to develop the new reimbursement system in consultation with a stakeholder oversight committee. States that committee members are appointed by the commissioner, in consultation with the grantee.
- Subd. 3. Pilot project.** Requires the grantee, in consultation with the commissioner and oversight committee, to create and test a simulation model for the new reimbursement system. Provides that payments under the simulation cannot exceed payments that would have been paid under the current system.
- Subd. 4. Report.** Requires the grantee, in consultation with the commissioner, to report to legislative chairs by December 15, 2016. Specifies report criteria.
- 5     **Oral health system administrative simplification.** (a) Requires the commissioner of human services to convene a work group to identify and implement changes to reduce the administrative burdens, costs, and complexities experienced by dental providers. Directs the commissioner to ensure that the changes recommended and agreed to by the work group are implemented and in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.
- (b) Requires the commissioner to report to legislative chairs by February 1, 2016, on the activities of the work group and the changes implemented. Requires the commissioner to identify changes that have not been implemented, and changes that were agreed to that require legislative action to implement.
- Provides an immediate effective date.
- 6     **Appropriation.** Appropriates money for FY 2016 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services, to provide a grant to develop and test a new dental reimbursement system.