

## AHCCCS DENTAL FEE SCHEDULE UPDATE

Dear Care1st Dentists and Staff:

The State of Arizona continues to face significant budget deficits. As part of the budget changes that are necessary to address the financial shortfall in the 2010 state fiscal year (7/1/09-6/30/10), AHCCCS must extend the fee reductions previously implemented for physicians, DME, injectables, lab and radiology in May, to dentists.

Therefore, effective October 1, 2009, AHCCCS is reducing the dental fee schedule, by 5%. At the same time, Care1st's reimbursement from AHCCCS will also be reduced by the same amount as the dental fee schedule change.

This is a tough message to deliver and one that is affecting our health care system statewide. AHCCCS takes these changes very seriously. During the budget review process, in order to better understand how AHCCCS reimbursement compares to Medicaid reimbursement across the country, AHCCCS completed an analysis that indicates that even following these reductions, Arizona will still be within the top 10% of all state Medicaid payors. In addition, AHCCCS also believes it is important for dental providers to know that expenditure reductions are not directed at dentists alone, and are part of broader reductions that are or have impacted physicians, hospitals, plans and AHCCCS Administration, and that will help AHCCCS to meet statutory expenditure requirements.

In addition, AHCCCS is also implementing the following benefit changes effective October 1, 2009:

Change	Code	Eff Date
1. Minimum age for complete x-ray series, including bitewings increased to 6 yr	D0210	10/1/09
2. Minimum age for panoramic x-rays increased to 5 yr	D0330	10/1/09
3. Minimum age for bitewing x-rays, two film increased to 2 yr	D0272	10/1/09
4. Minimum age for bitewing x-rays, three or four films increased to 10 yr	D0273, D0274	10/1/09
5. Max age for dental sealants lowered to 15 yr	D1351	10/1/09
6. Behavior management by report eliminated as covered benefit	D9920	10/1/09

The benefit changes outlined in the table on page one will be reflected in the Care1st Dental Matrix. The Dental Matrix is available on our website (see instructions below) or by calling our Provider Network Operations Department at the numbers listed at the bottom of each page of this communication.

To access the most current Care1st Dental Matrix and Dental X-ray Frequency Schedule:

1. Go to [www.care1st.com/az](http://www.care1st.com/az)
2. Click on the “Providers” tab
3. Choose “Dental” in the drop down menu under the “Providers” tab
4. Click on the applicable link

If you have any questions, Provider Network Operations is available to assist at the numbers listed below.

**Thank you!**