

**Board of Directors**

Tami Allen  
Families Together, Inc.

Sonja Armbruster  
Wichita State University

Melanie Simmer-Beck, PhD, RDH  
UMKC School of Dentistry

Veronica Byrd  
Parents as Teachers Pine Ridge

Kent Haverkamp, MD  
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas

Davette McCoy, MHS, RDH, ECP III  
Kansas Dental Hygienists' Assoc.

Debra Meisenheimer, BS, MS, CPC

Trina Morgan  
Kansas Children's Service League

Michelle Ponce  
Association of Community Mental Health  
Centers of Kansas

Kevin Robertson, MPA, CAE  
Kansas Dental Association

Nick Rogers, DDS  
Rogers Family Dentistry

Linda J Sheppard, JD  
Kansas Health Institute

Preddis Sullivan, DDS  
Delta Dental of Kansas

Shannon Uehling  
Sunflower Health Plan

**Bob Bethell Joint Committee on HCBS and KanCare Oversight Committee  
October 11, 2023**

Chair Gossage and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony for the Committee. My name is Tanya Dorf Brunner, and I am the Executive Director of Oral Health Kansas, Inc. We are the statewide advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the importance of lifelong dental health by shaping policy and educating the public, so Kansans know that all mouths matter.

I will begin with a couple of updates and then share our request of the Committee.

**Dental Care Access for People with Disabilities**

We have been pleased to share updates with this Committee about two work groups we lead that are focused on improving access to dental care for people with disabilities. Dental care access is one of the top unmet health needs for people with disabilities, and the reasons are myriad. To that end we have two active stakeholder groups focusing on improving this access. We have two important updates to share about strategies that can improve dental care for people with disabilities.

**1. New Medicaid Code Will Aid in Sedation Dental Access**

The Kansas Medicaid program has begun covering a new code that pays hospitals for the use of an operating room when dental care is provided under general anesthesia. While most people do not need hospital sedation to access dental care, those who do need that level of service face many barriers, and the cost of the operating room is one of the biggest barriers. The Kansas Medicaid program began covering [code G0330](#) on September 1, 2023, at the Medicare rate of \$1722.43.

Adding coverage of this code in Kansas makes it financially feasible for hospitals to allocate valuable operating room time for dental care. We are grateful to the Division of Health Care Finance for their leadership on this issue and to the Sedation Dental Care Task Force for their advocacy to get this code covered.

Oral Health Kansas has created a Frequently Asked Questions document to help providers, hospitals, and ambulatory surgical centers understand how to use G0330. (See attached FAQ.)

**2. New Training Program for Dental Providers Launching October 19**

Oral Health Kansas and the Pathways to Oral Health Team are proud to partner with the University of Kansas Medical Center and Aetna Better Health of Kansas to offer a new training series: "Accessible Oral Health 2023: Building Confidence in Serving People with Disabilities." This training series is one of the first of its kind in the nation, and we are proud to launch it in Kansas. It is designed to help dental teams learn more about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, communication strategies, sensory awareness, as well as tools and resources for treating people with disabilities.

Dental teams, including dentists, hygienists, assistants, and receptionists are urged to attend and learn together. The five-part series is free of charge. More information is available on this [flyer](#).

### **Medicaid Adult Dental Services**

The Medicaid dental services for adults the Legislature put into place on July 1, 2022, have now been in effect for a little over a year. This benefit includes fillings, crowns, and periodontal (gum disease) care. We requested data from the Division of Health Care Finance on usage of the services in the first six months and the second six months, and usage looks very consistent so far. From July to December 2022, about 5500 adults accessed dental care, and about the same number accessed care from January to June 2023. The total amount spent in the first year was very close to the amount appropriated by the Legislature (\$3.5 million). The agency did a great job of projecting the cost and utilization of the benefit, and **because of the Legislature's investment in dental care for adults, thousands of Kansans are now accessing dental care**. As a reminder, more information about the adult dental coverage, including the new denture coverage, is available on our [Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits webpage](#).

### **2023 Recommendation Request**

**We ask this Committee to recommend that the legislative budget committees work with the agency and stakeholders in 2024 to include coverage of dental exams and cleanings for adults in the Kansas Medicaid program.**

Kansas is the only state that uses a combination of Medicaid and Value-Added Benefits (VABs) to establish adult dental benefits. The Legislature has invested in extending restorative dental care to adults, but the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) have had to cover the entry level dental care – the exams and cleanings in their VAB packages. The purpose of a VAB is to offer additional services or incentives that can promote healthy lifestyles and improve health outcomes. A VAB is something extra that will make someone's life a little better, not a basic service that is core to health care, such as an exam and dental cleaning.

Dental providers can be hesitant to become Medicaid providers, and even Medicaid dental providers can be hesitant to begin serving adults. It is hard for a provider to decide to take the leap and become a Medicaid provider for both adults and children with the complexity of needing to understand how the VAB dental exams and cleanings work for each MCO as well as how the Medicaid dental services work. As we have been promoting the adult dental coverage to providers, we have heard this over and over again. They have told us it is necessary to move the exams and cleanings from the VABs to the Medicaid state plan. This will streamline the dental benefit and avoid confusion for both consumers and providers. It can make the difference for dental providers who are on the fence about becoming Medicaid providers.

This Committee has championed extending dental coverage to adults. The benefits of this coverage are many, including better health outcomes and job prospects. While the coverage is still relatively new, we are seeing that adults are now able to access the dental care they need. We appreciate your understanding and interest in this important issue and thank you for all the work you are doing to ensure the adult dental coverage you have invested in is working well.

Sincerely,



Tanya Dorf Brunner  
Executive Director

[tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:tdorf@oralhealthkansas.org)

# Kansas Medicaid Coverage of Hospital Dental Care

Effective September 1, 2023, hospitals in Kansas will see a higher Medicaid reimbursement when billing facility fees related to dental rehabilitation services that require monitored anesthesia in the operating room or ambulatory surgical centers. Read the [KMAP General Provider Bulletin #23218](#).

A new code has been added that will make it easier for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to schedule and block operating room time for dental cases. It makes it financially feasible for hospitals to allocate operating room dental time for dental care.

---

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the new code?**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created a new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) G code, G0330, which will be added to the Medicare Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) 5871 and increase the national average reimbursement from about \$200 to \$1,722.43. The state of Kansas now is covering G0330 in the state's Medicaid program.

### **What is the purpose of G0330?**

By increasing the reimbursement to hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers for dental care provided under monitored anesthesia, sedation dental care should be easier to schedule and provide. Increased reimbursement is vital to helping hospitals allow access to operating rooms for dental procedures.

### **What is the rate for G0330?**

The Kansas Medicaid rate is \$1,722.43, which matches the Medicare rate for the code.

### **Are prior authorizations required?**

Medical review is required for people ages 0 to 20, and prior authorization is required for people 21 years and older.

### **When did G0330 go into effect?**

Coverage for G0330 in the Kansas Medicaid program went into effect September 1, 2023.

### **Will coverage of G0330 change the codes dental providers use when billing for services provided in a hospital operating room or ambulatory surgical center?**

No. The code is a facility fee meant to be billed by the hospital or ambulatory surgical center. The dental provider will bill for dental care separately.

### **How does coverage of G0330 impact the reimbursement for services provided by the anesthesiologists?**

Anesthesia fees will not be impacted by coverage of G0330. Services provided by an anesthesiologist will be billed separately. G0330 is a facility fee only and will be billed by the hospital or ambulatory surgical center. |

### **Is G0330 available only for hospital operating rooms?**

No. The Kansas Medicaid program will cover G0330 for ambulatory surgical centers as well as hospital operating rooms.

### **Can G0330 be billed by hospitals only once per day?**

No. Hospitals or ambulatory surgical centers can bill the code for each sedation dental patient.