

**ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR**  
**PEOPLE WITH HIV**  
**INFECTION**

**A REVIEW OF THE  
LITERATURE**

# **RATIONALE FOR** **ORAL CARE IN HIV**

- **Early recognition and management of oral conditions is important for quality of life**
- **Oral care supports proper nutrition, preventing or slowing wasting**
- **Oral lesions are clinical markers in the clinical spectrum of HIV disease**

# **EXAMPLES OF HIV-RELATED ORAL LESIONS**

- **Oral/pharyngeal candidiasis**
- **Hairy leukoplakia**
- **Necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis**
- **Kaposi sarcoma lesions**
- **Intra-oral herpes infections**
- **Apthous ulcers**

# **PERIODONTAL DISEASE IN CHILDREN WITH HIV**

## *Conflicting data:*

- **Primary dentition caries greater among children with HIV than US pediatric population (in 100 children with HIV)**
- **Periodontal findings similar in 68 children with HIV to those of household peers and to US pediatric population**

# **ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE**

- **Only 42% of HCSUS respondents saw a dentist in past 6 months**
- **19% of HCSUS respondents had unmet need for dental care**
- **In ACSUS study, dental services were most commonly reported unmet need**

# **UNMET NEED FOR DENTAL CARE GREATER AMONG:**

- **Medicaid beneficiaries in states without dental benefits**
- **People without dental insurance**
- **People with incomes below \$5,000/yr**
- **People without a high school education**
- **African Americans and Hispanics**

# **BARRIERS TO PROVIDING HIV ORAL HEALTH CARE**

- **Inadequate space**
- **Low priority among agency policymakers**
- **Low priority for resource allocation decision making bodies**
- **Too costly to justify need and obtain funding**

# **BARRIERS TO PROVIDING HIV ORAL HEALTH CARE**

- **Cost of care, including meeting administration and reporting requirements, exceeds reimbursement**
- **Sources of reimbursement are limited**



# **MEDICAID COVERAGE**

- **Under Medicaid, states are allowed to provide emergency, preventive, diagnostic, restorative, and more complex dental treatment**
- **However, dental care is an optional service for adult, which states may or may not choose to provide**

# **MEDICAID DENTAL COVERAGE FOR ADULTS**

- **Full dental coverage: 15 states**
- **Partial dental coverage: 18 states**
- **No dental coverage: 18 states**
- **Dentures: 34 states**
- ***Caveat: Even in states with full coverage, it may only be available to certain categories of Medicaid beneficiary***

# **MEDICAID DENTAL** **COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN**

- **Mandated dental services:  
comprehensive preventive,  
restorative, and emergency**

# **UTILIZATION OF DENTAL SERVICES IN MEDICAID**

- **In 1996, only 18% of children enrolled in Medicaid received any preventive dental screening or services**
- **In 1996, only 29% of adults enrolled in Medicaid visited a dentist in the preceding year, less than half the rate among higher-income adults**

# **BARRIERS TO UTILIZATION** **OF DENTAL SERVICES**

*Dentists are unwilling to treat Medicaid clients because:*

- **Inadequate reimbursement**
- **Burdensome administrative requirements**
- **Delays in reimbursement**
- **Loss of revenue for missed appointments**
- **Perceived stigma with Medicaid clients**

# **FEDERAL EFFORTS TO INCREASE UTILIZATION**

- **Increased oversight to states with a low proportion of Medicaid-enrolled children who made a dental visit in the preceding year**

# **STATE EFFORTS TO INCREASE UTILIZATION**

- **Rate increases**
- **Streamlined administrative procedures**
- **Coalition building among stakeholders**
- **Beneficiary education**
- **Capacity-building for safety-net providers**
- **Increased use of dental hygienists**
- **Direct services by Medicaid**

# **RYAN WHITE CARE ACT:** **FUNDED DENTAL SERVICES**

- **Title I: 2.9% of funds in FY 2000**
- **Title II: 2.2% of funds in FY 2000**
- **Title III: \$6 million in most recent grant award cycle**
- **Title IV: information not available**



# **RYAN WHITE CARE ACT- FUNDED DENTAL SERVICES**

**(CON'T)**

- **Retrospective payment for services rendered but not reimbursed**
- **FY1997: \$7.5 million**
- **FY 2001: \$10 million (Although \$12.7 million reported in non-reimbursed costs)**
- **Less than one-half of 1% of the entire CARE Act budget**

# **GOALS OF RYAN WHITE** **CARE ACT DRUG** **REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

- **Assist in covering non-reimbursed costs of HIV care by dental schools**
- **Improve access to oral health care for PLWH**
- **Ensure proper training for new providers**