

# New Technical Brief: Public Policy Advocate Tip Sheet on Medicaid Compliance and Audit Issues

AAPD Public Policy Advocates are in an ideal position to promote fair and consistent auditing practices in their own states. This brief discusses how Advocates can establish state-level relationships with public and private entities that share the goal of improved oral health for children as well as educate members about relevant regulations, documentation standards and appropriate billing practices.

However, you don't have to be a Public Policy Advocate to find value in this report, because it offers practical tips for surviving an audit as a pediatric dental provider. Some of the tips discussed are:

- Be sure you and all members of your business office team read and understand what's in your state Dental Medicaid Provider Manual;
- Since the language in the Manual can be ambiguous, always ask for clarification in writing from your Dental Medicaid Program staff or the managed care contractor;
- Learn the basics of dental coding yourself rather than relying exclusively on your office manager;
- Promptly meet requests for medical records from state agencies; and
- Be wary of billing software designed to "maximize" revenues.

Visit the Policy Center webpage to download your own copies of these two valuable resources on Medicaid audits.



## Pulp Therapy Systematic Review Update

This article continues a series explaining the Academy's inaugural EBD systematic review and guideline development process. As this article goes to press, Academy staff members, your peers and outside experts steeped in evidence-based practice have already convened at headquarters to analyze the studies uncovered through the rigorous EBD methodology.

To get to this point, each AAPD member of the Pulp Therapy Evidence-Based Dentistry Workgroup (EBDW) has: participated in twice-monthly two hour calls, screened 303 citations, read 85 full-text studies, and extracted data (each study requires EBDW members to fill a form consisting of 61 fields, such as radiographic findings and risk of bias variables) of 70 studies. Additionally, the pulp therapy workgroup has registered its review with PROPSERO, an international database of prospectively registered systematic reviews. This step is essential to completion of a gold standard systematic review. To date, the EBDW has spent roughly 100 to 170 hours screening, reviewing and extracting studies.

During the onsite meeting, pulp therapy experts (Drs. Coll, Seale and Vargas) reviewed the extraction sheets of over 90 randomized controlled trials of pulp therapy treatments and determined which studies are like enough to combine and quantify. Once these studies are statistically analyzed, the EBDW will formulate the findings into evidence tables. The resulting systematic review will be the basis of the AAPD's first EBD guideline.

These guidelines harken in a new age in pediatric dentistry research. And while these guidelines will be produced utilizing different protocols from the past, they will be relying on pediatric dentists with years of clinical experience.

For further information, please contact AAPD Policy Center EBD Manager Laurel Graham at (312) 337-2169 or [lgraham@aapd.org](mailto:lgraham@aapd.org).

The Pulp Therapy Evidence-Based Dentistry Workgroup members include the following people: Dr. James A. Coll, professor at Univ. Maryland School of Dentistry; Dr. N. Sue Seale, Editor in Chief of *Pediatric Dentistry* and the *Journal of Dentistry for Children* and professor at Baylor College of Dentistry, Dallas, Texas; Dr. Kaaren Vargas, Corridor Pediatric Dentistry. Statistician: Dr. Ann Lazar, assistant professor University of California San Francisco Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.