Annual Report of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs

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C. Scott Litch, Staff Liaison  
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Charge 1. Continue to assist states in actively pursuing reimbursement for medically necessary oral health care under general anesthesia. Report annually to the Board on progress in this field.

Status of Charge: Ongoing

Progress Report: State units are assisted as needed. A spreadsheet matrix of GA benefits by state was updated and is available from the office of the Deputy Executive Director and General Council.

Charge 2. Act as a liaison between the Academy and the ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs and other dental organizations/committees pertaining to pediatric dental care. Act also as a liaison between membership and the Board of Trustees regarding code change requests.

Status of Charge: Ongoing

Progress Report: A representative of the CDBP attends the ADA Code Revision Committee (CRC) meeting to testify on items of interest to AAPD members. Thus far, Jim Nickman and Scott Litch attended a CRC workshop on code development in July and the CRC Batch One Meeting in February 2007. The CDBP’s code addition proposal on Atraumatic Restorative Technique (ART) has been tabled by the Board of Trustees.

Charge 3. Respond to membership concerns regarding third party reimbursement issues.

Status of Charge: Ongoing

Progress Report: The CDBP is responding to the AAPD membership concerns with answers to their questions or specific solutions to their problem(s). The main issues this year dealt with the new infant exam and
therapeutic fluoride varnish codes implemented in CDT-2007. Copies of common member issues will be forwarded also to the ADA CDBP, as appropriate.

**Charge 4.** Maintain and expand on the Web site information regarding ADA procedural codes and coding.

*Status of Charge:* Ongoing

*Progress Report:* The information is available in the Members Only portion of the AAPD Web site and is updated on an as needed basis. Information regarding the CDT-2007 implementation has been uploaded to the Web site.

**Charge 5.** Utilizing the resources of the ADA Council on Dental Benefit Programs’ Committee on the Code, and in conjunction with the Council on the Annual Session’s Scientific Program Committee, Coordinate/prepare a Code Workshop for the 2007 Annual Session.

*Status of Charge:* Ongoing

*Progress Report:* The CDBP has scheduled a CDT-2007 workshop which will include an ADA speaker to conduct a CDT-2007 workshop and then a panel of AAPD members to answer questions.

**Charge 6.** Develop a resource packet for AAPD members on working with insurers via appeals, challenges, education, etc. and information for parents/caregivers concerning appropriate dental insurance options and optimal benefit coverage for children. Report to the Board no later than the 2006 Ad Interim meeting the specifics of such a resource package. As authorized by Board, draw upon the resources of the Council on Communications, AAPD staff, and the AAPD’s public relations firm in the development and production of resource materials. Prepare a progress/final report for the Board May 2007.

*Status of Charge:* Ongoing

*Progress Report:* Council member Jonathan Staker is currently revising a draft of the resource packet and will circulate to the CDBP members when appropriate.

**Charge 7.** Explore options and opportunities with the dental benefits industry to communicate our coverage issues and concerns with third party reimbursement. Report to the Board no later than January 2007, with recommendations for action steps.

*Status of Charge:* Ongoing
Progress Report: Dr. Nickman, Dr. Brill and Scott Litch recently attended the Dental Directors meetings hosted by the American Academy of Endodontists and American Academy of Periodontology in March 2007. As a result of the meetings, the CDBP is developing two new charges to host a dental director’s summit to address AAPD issues in May 2008 and evaluate the feasibility of a member’s advocate regarding coding issues. Dr. Staker will also be attending the AADC meeting in May 2007 as the AAPD representative.

Charge 8. Explore options and opportunities with major dental benefit purchasers to communicate our views concerning appropriate oral health benefits for children. Report to the Board no later than January 2007, with recommendations for action steps.

Status of Charge: Ongoing
Progress Report: The CDBP will act on opportunities as appropriate.

Charge 9. Develop by January 2007 a new model dental benefit plan that describes the minimally-necessary covered services to achieve an acceptable standard of care for the child patient. Consult with the Council on Clinical Affairs as necessary in these revisions.

Status of Charge: Completed
Progress Report: The Model Dental Benefit Plan was transferred to the CCA for their review and modification.