## News from the Wyoming Department of Health

Monday, July 10, 2006

## **Wyoming Boosts Medicaid Dental Coverage for Adults**

Using funds approved this year by the Wyoming Legislature, the Wyoming Department of Health is expanding dental coverage available through the EqualityCare (Medicaid) program to include preventative care for eligible adults as of July 10.

"Good oral health should not be overlooked because dental disease can often contribute to other health problems," said State Dentist Dr. Grant Christensen. "Effective prevention of tooth and gum disease and early treatment of diseased and damaged teeth are part of health maintenance."

While the existing Medicaid dental benefit was limited to emergency extractions, under the newly expanded dental program, eligible adults can receive:

- \*One preventive visit per year with examination, x-rays and cleanings
- \*Restorations (dental fillings)
- \*Emergency extractions

"This is an important health benefit for those adults who are covered by EqualityCare and who, in the past, were only able to receive emergency tooth extraction for pain and infection," Christensen said. "The expanded program will provide both basic dental care and treatment determined to be medically necessary."

Christensen continued, "Wyoming's EqualityCare (Medicaid) program is one of the best in the country, with a majority of dentists in the state participating. This expanded adult dental program will improve overall health among residents of our state who typically experience the greatest degree of dental disease."

Coverage under the program is limited to \$400 per person annually, and benefits for dentures, crowns and bridges are not included.

Eligibility for the program is determined by local Department of Family Services offices. For a list of how to contact these offices, please call 1-800-457-3659.

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