



COHI - Equity in Oral Health in CT

Featured News

- Expansion of Medicaid-Covered Services
- COHI applauds improvements in Medicare Coverage
- How to Clean a Toothbrush
- Free Dental Clinic
- Claim Your Child Tax Care Credit
- Pet Therapy to Ease Patient Anxiety
- In Case You Missed It
- Help Us Build Our Network

Expansion of Medicaid-Covered Services Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)

Starting November 1, 2022, the application for the Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) treatment by a dentist will be approved without prior authorization for use on HUSKY A, B, C and D Members for both children and adults who are at risk for advancing caries. SDF is a painless topical medication used to treat and prevent dental caries - this access is an important step forward in oral health care in Connecticut.

Thanks to COHI Board Chair Dr. Brianna Muñoz for her tireless advocacy for this change, and to the [CT Department of Social Services](#) for making it a reality.

You can find more information [here](#).

COHI Applauds Improvement in Medicare Coverage of Oral Health Treatments

In a major step forward, older and disabled adults will have improved access to oral health care as a result of a change announced this month by the Federal [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#). Beginning in 2023, Medicare will begin paying for dental services necessary to identify and eliminate oral and dental infections prior to, and contemporaneously with, organ transplant, cardiac valve replacement, and valvuloplasty procedures. COHI has supported expansion of Medicare coverage for oral health care for older adults. Thanks to the [Center for Medicare Advocacy](#) for their advocacy on these issues!

You can read the document [here](#).

How to Clean a Toothbrush!

When was the last time you cleaned your toothbrush?

A clean toothbrush is vital to keeping your mouth healthy because
dental care *is* health care!



Check out this article on best practices.
[How to clean a toothbrush](#)

**The Connecticut Mission of
Mercy Free Dental Clinic***
Dates: November 12-13, 2022
**Where: [UConn School of Dental
Medicine, Farmington](#)**



This is a first-come, first-served clinic and is providing free dental services.

*The Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic is affectionately referred to as CTMOM. The two-day clinic provides free dental care to the underserved and uninsured in Connecticut—those that would otherwise go without dental care. Oral health is inseparable from general health and can affect a person's self-esteem, compromise their ability to work, attend school and lead a normal life. The Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach (CFDO) in collaboration with the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) held the state's first Mission of Mercy project in 2008. Every year, the CTMOM project is held in a different location throughout the state.

For more information, visit:

[Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach](#)

Claim Your Child Tax Credit

Get started **by November 15th** and use this simplified tax filing tool to claim your Child Tax Credit, Earned Income Tax Credit, and any missing amount of your third stimulus payment!

[You can find the form here!](#)



Dentist uses Pet Therapy to Ease Patient Anxiety

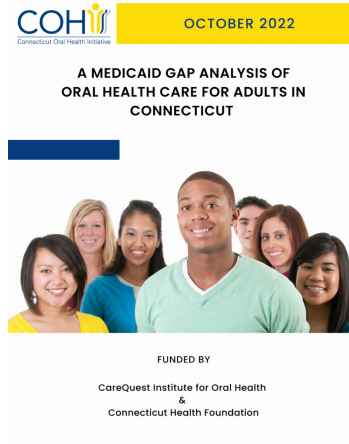
Check out this story about a dentist who uses supportive dogs to help calm patients who

might be feeling anxious about
a dental procedure!

[View here!](#)

In Case You Missed It (ICYMI): COHI Issues Vital New Report

We released a new report based on a study conducted from 2021 to 2022 that investigated the potential barriers causing gaps in oral health access and quality care for adults who have dental insurance through **Medicaid**. The report also identifies solutions for achieving better outcomes and provides suggestions for further research.



The study focused on several key areas, including historical Medicaid service utilization data, the impact of Connecticut’s annual maximum benefits cap initiated in 2018, a geographical study to identify gaps in provider networks across the state, and an understanding of the experiences of providers and enrollees through in-depth interviews.

Read the full report [here](#).

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Help us build our network by forwarding this email to others interested in equitable oral health care and urge them to sign up for our newsletter on our [COHI website home page](#).

COHI is fighting to achieve real and equitable access to oral health across the state. Every donation helps us toward our goal of “oral health care for all”. Please make your donation [here](#) or send your check made payable to **COHI, 53 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106**.

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