



**Subject Line:** Webinar: Supporting Dental Health Care Coordination for Individuals Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid

**Preview Text Line:** In this webinar, Resources for Integrated Care will articulate issues affecting dental care for dually eligible individuals and highlight promising practices to help health plans and providers meet oral health-related needs.

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Dear Colleague,

Resources for Integrated Care invites you to attend an upcoming webinar.

## ***Supporting Dental Health Care Coordination for Individuals Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid***

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**Date: Monday July 15, 2024**

**Time: 2:30-4:00 PM ET**

Oral health care coordination for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid is a complicated task for several reasons:

- *Coverage complexity.* Dually eligible individuals navigate coverage for dental health care through both the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Although the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented final rules in January 2023 and January 2024 expanding Medicare coverage for certain “medically necessary” or acute dental health

care services,<sup>1,2</sup> coverage for routine dental health care needs remains a patchwork through Medicaid programs that vary widely from one state to the next.<sup>3</sup>

- *Provider shortages.* Despite Medicaid program expansions for certain dental services, shortages of Medicaid-participating practitioners offering care to enrollees—coupled with increased Medicaid enrollment during the COVID-19 public health emergency—continue to limit access to care.<sup>4,5</sup>
- *Health equity.* Disparities in dental health access disproportionately affect dually eligible enrollees. For example, Black and Hispanic populations—both overrepresented in the dually eligible enrollee population—experience greater dental care access barriers and a higher burden of disease comorbidity than their White counterparts.<sup>6</sup> Similarly, individuals with disabilities or who are homebound also face both a higher incidence of dental disease and greater barriers to care when compared with the general population.<sup>5</sup>

To overcome these challenges, health plans and providers are implementing strategies to meet the dental health care needs of dually eligible enrollees. This includes ensuring care plans and treatment are person-centered, improving access to dental care providers, working to reduce disparities to deliver more equitable care, and increasing awareness about the relationship between oral health and overall wellness.

**Description:** This webinar will articulate the dental care needs of dually eligible individuals and will highlight promising practices for health plans and providers to meet those needs. Speakers will share strategies to support benefits and dental service coordination in a complex health care delivery landscape while addressing underlying dental health equity challenges facing the dually eligible population.

**By the end of this interactive webinar, participants will be able to:**

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<sup>1</sup> Garvin, J. (2022). CMS Expands Medicare to Cover Medically Necessary Conditions Requiring Dental Services. *ADA News*. Retrieved from <https://adanews.ada.org/ada-news/2022/november/cms-expands-medicare-to-cover-medically-necessary-conditions-requiring-dental-services/>.

<sup>2</sup> Freed, M., Neuman, T., and Cubanski, J. (2023) *Recent Changes to Medicare Coverage of Dental Services from the 2023 and 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rules*. Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/recent-changes-to-medicare-coverage-of-dental-services-from-the-2023-and-2024-medicare-physician-fee-schedule-final-rules/>.

<sup>3</sup> Center for Health Care Strategies. (2019). *Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits: An Overview* (fact sheet). Retrieved from <https://www.chcs.org/resource/medicaid-adult-dental-benefits-overview/>.

<sup>4</sup> American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute. (2022). *Dentists who Participate in Medicaid: Who They Are, Where They Locate, How They Practice*. Retrieved from [https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/hpi\\_dentist\\_participation\\_medicaid\\_webinar\\_slides.pdf?rev=ca757c4dac654900b7eb1cbac2990fa3&hash=06C1E0E05A7BBF00AE9566D90BC27036](https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/hpi_dentist_participation_medicaid_webinar_slides.pdf?rev=ca757c4dac654900b7eb1cbac2990fa3&hash=06C1E0E05A7BBF00AE9566D90BC27036).

<sup>5</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. (2024). *Medicaid Enrollment and Unwinding Tracker - Federal Unwinding and Enrollment Data*. Retrieved from <https://www.kff.org/report-section/medicaid-enrollment-and-unwinding-tracker-national-federal-unwinding-and-enrollment-data/>.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. (2021). *Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges*. Retrieved from <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/Oral-Health-in-America-Advances-and-Challenges.pdf>.

1. Understand the dental health care landscape for dually eligible individuals, including dental health care benefit structures, gaps in oral health care and services, and the effect of dental care on an individual's overall health;
2. Summarize successful dental health care benefits and services management and care coordination strategies that plans can implement to meet the unique oral health needs of the dually eligible population;
3. Articulate why and how providers and plans apply a person-centered care approach to meet the oral health care needs of dually eligible individuals; and
4. Describe dental health care equity challenges that disproportionately affect dually eligible enrollees, as well as strategies to improve oral health care equity.

**Featured Speakers:**

1. Natalia Chalmers, DDS, MHSc, PhD, Chief Dental Officer, CMS
2. Carolyn Brown, DDS, Dental Director and Marisa Cardarelli, MPH, Dental Benefits Manager, Health Plan of San Mateo
3. Jessica Serman, RN, Assistant Director of Clinical Services, Upper Peninsula Health Plan
4. Michael J. Helgeson, DDS, Chief Executive Officer, Apple Tree Dental
5. An individual with lived experience or caregiver panelist

**Featured Panel Discussion Facilitator:**

1. Rear Admiral Michael Winsor Johnson, DDS, MPH, Chief Dental Officer, U.S. Public Health Service

**Intended Audience:**

This webinar is intended for a wide range of health care providers working with dually eligible enrollees, including health plans, dental health care providers and organizations, dental health care benefits specialists, care coordinators, and caregivers and families of dually eligible individuals.

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**Registration Information:**

After clicking the registration link hosted on <https://www.resourcesforintegratedcare.com/> and completing the registration form, you will receive an email from do\_not\_reply@on24event.com containing event log-on information. The email also contains an attachment that, when opened, will save the event log-on information to an Outlook calendar. Check your junk email folder if you do not promptly see an event log-on email in your Inbox.

**Viewing the Event:**

On the day of the live event, please use the web link to join the webinar. You can access the platform using a computer, smart phone, or tablet. The audio portion of the presentation will automatically stream through your computer/device speakers. Please make sure that the volume on your speakers is turned up. RIC provides real-time captioning (via CART Services) during the webinar.

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*Resources for Integrated Care (RIC) develops and disseminates technical assistance and actionable tools for providers of beneficiaries dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid based on successful innovations and care models. The RIC website features additional resources and tools for providers and health plans, available at <https://www.resourcesforintegratedcare.com>. RIC is supported by the CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office.*

**Please contact [RIC@lewin.com](mailto:RIC@lewin.com) with any questions**