A Conceptualization of the Connecticut Dental Hygienists’ Experiences with Care Trends for the Medicaid Patient

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Research Question
Does the type of dental insurance coverage a patient retains impact their access to dental treatment and treatment care options?

Methods
An anonymous survey was e-mailed to 1,300 licensed Connecticut dental hygienists to investigate if dental hygienists in Connecticut are providing treatment for patients receiving Medicaid benefits?

Survey questions investigated:
- Services provided
- The referral rate for services for the adult dental Medicaid patient
- A focus on payments made
- Type of payment
- Treatment delivered and suggestions to eliminate the challenges of access to care for dental treatment for the Medicaid patient

Data Analysis
Analysis of the survey results by Chi Square testing demonstrated:
- A Significant difference in services provided and treatment options provided to the Medicaid patient versus the privately insured dental patient
- A significant difference with the association between services offered to patients with Medicaid insurance and services offered to patients with insurance other than Medicaid
- No significant difference in referral given for dental treatment to either patient insured by Medicaid, private insurance, other insurance or cash payment

Results

Comparison of services offered Medicaid versus Insurance Other than Medicaid

Comparison of referrals Medicaid Versus Insurance Other than Medicaid

Comparison of Coverage, Medicaid versus Payment other than Medicaid

Conclusion
More research is warranted to further investigate access to care challenges for the adult Medicaid patient in Connecticut, to provide better access and treatment options.