

Dental Plan Transparency: Over the past few years we've worked successfully to address several issues our members face with dental plans. That work continues, with three more challenging issues we hope to address to ensure better transparency for both dentists and their patients. *1) Prior Authorizations* are an important tool allowing both patients and dentists to know what charges will be covered under the patient's dental plan and any out-of-pocket costs prior to performing needed treatment. The ISDA supports stronger requirements for maintaining prior authorizations. *2) Denial of Service Claims.* Our members are experiencing problems surrounding denial of services for patients. Denials are often based on treatment limitations that don't fit all patients. The ISDA supports incorporating more evidence and risk-based protocols into decisions on when to cover services, so that patient care is best served. *3) Payment Claw Backs* – Dental plans regularly rescind or claw back payments for services provided. These rescissions can occur more than 12 months after the service was provided and paid. The ISDA supports stronger limitations on payment claw backs.

Licensing for out-of-state providers: Dentists are fully credentialed as either a Doctor of Dental Medicine or Dental Surgery and are essential healthcare providers who spend more than eight years in higher education and residency to learn how to properly detect, diagnose, and treat oral health disorders and diseases. Whether providing care in person, or via technology, we believe there should be parity in licensing for all dentists who practice in Idaho to ensure the highest standards of care and safety for patients. The ISDA is opposed to the removal or exemption of Idaho licensure requirements for telehealth providers. To do so would create a lower standard of accountability for out-of-state providers and has the potential to put patients at risk.

Teledentistry: The ISDA supports access to care and innovation in the delivery of healthcare through the use of technology. While telehealth technology has been used to expand the delivery of care, it has limits with the practice of dentistry, which remains a mostly hands-on, in-person profession. Idaho Code ensures that providers establish relationships with patients and that care provided via technology meets the same community standards of care required for in-person treatment. These are important, fundamental requirements that better ensure patient safety and should be preserved.

Personal Property Tax: Idaho's dentists are small business owners who make serious investments in technology and equipment for their practices, in order to bring the best oral health care to their patients. Idaho's personal property tax, which applies to all businesses, is one of the most difficult taxes to administer and comply with, and negatively impacts capital intensive small businesses like dental practices. While our members appreciate the exemption being increased to \$250,000, it doesn't cover the personal property valuation in the average dental practice. The ISDA continues to support legislation to repeal or phase out the personal property tax.

The Idaho State Dental Association has other issues we anticipate addressing, but these are the main areas of work we anticipate in the 2022 Legislature.