



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill 547 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is submitting this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 547 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Prophylaxis Care and Oral Health Exams. HB 547 would require MDH to lift the current requirement that prophylaxis care or oral health exams be provided at an interval greater than 120 days within a plan year. The bill would take effect on January 1, 2022.

Maryland Medicaid covers dental services for children, pregnant women, adults in the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) Program, and former foster care youth up to age 26. Benefits for these populations are not subject to a financial cap. MDH also operates an Adult Dental Pilot Program for adults 21 through 64 years of age enrolled in both Medicaid and Medicare. Services through the Adult Dental Pilot Program are subject to an \$800 per person annual cap. MDH currently limits the frequency for certain prophylactic services to once every six months.

For FY22, MDH estimates that HB 547 would have a fiscal impact of \$2.3 million, subject to a 54% federal match (\$1.2 million in Federal funds, \$1 million in State funds). The cost for FY23 is estimated to be \$4.7 million (\$2.6 million Federal funds, \$2.2 million State funds). Costs would increase each subsequent fiscal year. MDH expects the fiscal impact will be largely due to increased utilization of services by children.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at webster.ye@maryland.gov / (410) 260-3190 or Heather Shek, Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs at heather.shek@maryland.gov and at the same phone number.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy