From:	Dafflitto, Scott (HRSA)
To:	Duplantier, Daniel (HRSA)
Cc:	HRSA BPHC OAA
Subject:	FW: COMMENT #46: CMS74v9 dental sealant proposed change
Date:	Thursday, October 3, 2019 2:19:08 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

From: HRSA Paperwork <paperwork@hrsa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 12:53 PM
To: Dafflitto, Scott (HRSA) <SDafflitto@hrsa.gov>
Cc: HRSA BPHC OAA <bphcoaa@hrsa.gov>; HRSA Paperwork <paperwork@hrsa.gov>
Subject: COMMENT #46: CMS74v9 dental sealant proposed change

Ellie Bowman
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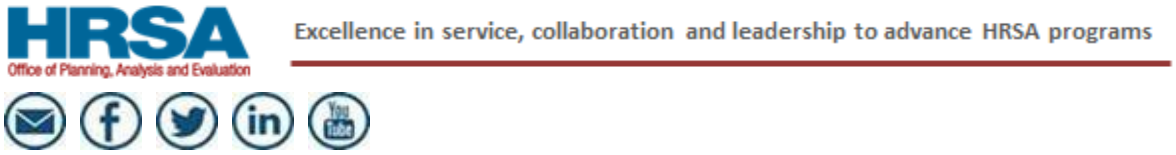

From: Paul Christian <paulchristiandmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2019 12:13 PM
To: HRSA Paperwork <paperwork@hrsa.gov>; paul christian <paulchristiandmd@gmail.com>
Subject: re: CMS74v9 dental sealant proposed change

Dear Lisa Wright-Solomon/HRSA Staff:

I am writing in opposition to your proposal to move away from dental sealants.

While I agree that topical fluoride varnish is indicated to help prevent dental caries, a much better preventive measure is the placement of occlusal sealants. Why remove a proven scientific, evidence-based measure (sealants) for a topical medicinal application, which although has scientific efficacy, is not as long-lasting as a dental sealant? The benefits of a dental sealant are measured in years; the benefits of fluoride varnish are measured in months! That alone should be reason to justify continued coverage of dental occlusal sealants. The optimum prevention would be occlusal sealants, and topical fluoride; I recommend and perform both of these procedures daily for all indicated individuals, especially children in high risk categories.

If you remove the sealant benefit, you are removing a big preventive service, and you will see an increase in dental pit and fissure/occlusal caries without a doubt. We know from epidemiology studies, that sealants prevent about 50% of the caries that would otherwise occur. So, I believe you will see an increase in caries incidence which may eventually lead to a patient having twice the number of carious lesions than what they would have if they would have had the protective occlusal sealants.

Respectfully,

Paul Christian, DMD
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