

# Oral Health Connections pilot project results

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## Findings from providing enhanced reimbursement and frequency of periodontal services for adults with diabetes, or who are pregnant

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5092; Section 211(50); Chapter 334; Laws of 2021

October 1, 2021

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# Oral Health Connections pilot project results

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## Acknowledgements

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## Executive summary

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Adults with diabetes or who are pregnant are at increased risk for developing periodontal (gum) disease. Treatment often requires more frequent maintenance to control the disease and prevent poor health outcomes, which are more likely among those with diabetes or who are pregnant. In 2018, the Legislature required HCA to establish the Oral Health Connections (OHC) pilot project to address this need. In 2021, the Legislature passed ESSB 5092; section 211(50) states:

“Within the amounts appropriated in this section, the authority shall extend the oral health connections pilot project in Spokane, Thurston, and Cowlitz counties. The authority shall continue to work in collaboration with a state-based oral health foundation to jointly develop and implement the program. The purpose of the pilot is to test the effect that enhanced dental benefits for medicaid clients with diabetes and pregnant clients have on access to dental care, health outcomes, and medical care costs. The pilot program must continue to include enhanced reimbursement rates for participating dental providers, including denturists licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW, and an increase in the allowable number of periodontal treatments to up to four per calendar year. The authority has the option of extending pilot program eligibility to dually eligible medicaid clients who are diabetic or pregnant and to pregnant medicaid clients under the age of 20. The authority has the option of adjusting the pilot program benefit design and fee schedule based on previous findings, within amounts appropriated in this section. Diabetic or pregnant medicaid clients who are receiving dental care within the pilot regions, regardless of location of the service within the pilot regions, are eligible for the increased number of periodontal treatments. The state-based oral health foundation shall continue to partner with the authority and provide wraparound services to link patients to care. The authority and foundation shall provide a joint report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on October 1, 2021, outlining the findings of the original three-year pilot program, and on December 1, 2022, outlining the progress of the extended pilot program.”

This legislative report outlines the findings of the original OHC pilot project, which provided greater access to periodontal dental care for Washington State Apple Health (Medicaid) clients. Participation in the OHC pilot project has been lower than HCA expected. From January 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021, eight OHC dental providers performed 349 procedures on 129 eligible Apple Health clients, and billed Apple Health \$12,209 for those procedures — about 1.2 percent of the \$1 million budget appropriation.

COVID-19 pandemic restrictions appear to have limited OHC pilot project participation. In addition, both a dental provider survey and HCA Dental Program staff observations identified opportunities to increase OHC pilot project participation related to billing challenges and the need for further enhanced reimbursement rates. HCA’s initial response has included working with dental providers to address challenges with billing for OHC pilot project dental procedures. Apple Health dental procedure reimbursement rates increased by about 100 percent beginning on July 1, 2021. HCA and Arcora Foundation will consider findings from the original three-year pilot before extending the OHC pilot project in January 2022, which will possibly include additional procedures, a broader range of eligible client ages, and other reimbursement enhancements. HCA will submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2022, outlining the process of the extended pilot program.

## Background

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Periodontal disease, or gum disease, is the result of a bacterial infection that causes inflammation of the tissues and bone that surround and support the teeth. In the early stage of gum disease (gingivitis), the gums become swollen and red, and they may bleed. In its more serious form (periodontitis), the gums can pull away from the tooth, bone can be lost, and the teeth may loosen or even fall out. Periodontal disease is much more common among adults than among children. Periodontal disease and tooth decay are the two biggest threats to dental health.<sup>1</sup>

Diabetes and pregnancy are well-established risk factors for periodontal disease.

- People with diabetes are more vulnerable to periodontal disease than those without diabetes.<sup>2</sup> Periodontal disease may make it more difficult for people who have diabetes to control their blood sugar, which puts people with diabetes at increased risk for diabetic complications.<sup>3</sup>
- The majority of individuals who are pregnant experience gingivitis during their pregnancy, which can develop into periodontitis. Periodontitis has also been associated with poor pregnancy outcomes, including preterm birth and low birth weight.<sup>4</sup>

Good oral hygiene and regular professional dental cleanings can help to control and treat gingivitis. It is possible to treat more severe forms of periodontal disease successfully, but it can often require more frequent maintenance and more extensive treatment, such as deep cleaning of the tooth root surfaces below the gums.<sup>5</sup> However, adult clients enrolled in Apple Health, including those with diabetes or who are pregnant, have historically been unable to access necessary dental procedures frequently enough to treat and manage periodontal disease effectively.

## Legislative requirement

In the 2018 supplemental state operating budget,<sup>6</sup> the Legislature included a proviso that appropriated \$1 million for the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to implement the three-year Oral Health Connections (OHC) pilot project in Spokane, Thurston, and Cowlitz counties. The purpose of the OHC pilot project is to test the effect that enhanced dental benefits for adult Apple Health clients with diabetes and pregnant clients have on access to dental care, health outcomes, and medical care costs. The budget proviso directed HCA to:

- Model the OHC pilot project after the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program. As part of the medical-dental integration model, the ABCD program trains medical care providers to provide early intervention, such as fluoride treatments, oral exams, and family oral health education. The

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<sup>1</sup> "Periodontal Disease", Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; accessed on July 15, 2021, from the [CDC's website](#).

<sup>2</sup> "Disparities in Preventive Oral Health Care and Periodontal Health Among Adults with Diabetes", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; accessed on July 15, 2021, from the [CDC's website](#).

<sup>3</sup> "Diabetes and Periodontal Disease", American Academy of Periodontology; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [perio.org](#).

<sup>4</sup> "Pregnancy and Oral Health", Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; accessed on July 15, 2021, from the [CDC's website](#).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6032, Chapter 299, Laws of 2018, Partial Veto, Section 213(1)(oo); accessed on July 15, 2021, from [lawfiles.leg.wa.gov](#). This amended a similar proviso in the 2017 biennial budget: Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5883, Chapter 1, Laws of 2017 (3rd Special Session), Partial Veto, Section 213(1)(nn); accessed on July 15, 2021, from [lawfiles.leg.wa.gov](#).

medical providers also work to refer their Apple Health patients ages five and younger to dental services and reimburses ABCD-trained dental providers higher rates for those patients' dental services.<sup>7,8</sup>

- Reimburse participating dental providers at higher rates for their services to OHC pilot program clients.
- Partner with the Arcora Foundation<sup>9</sup> (formerly the Washington Dental Service Foundation) to develop and implement the OHC pilot project jointly and provide wraparound services to link patients to care.
- Increase the allowable number of periodontal treatments for qualifying adult Apple Health clients from one per 12-month period to up to four per 12-month period. Clients must receive these services within the OHC pilot project regions (i.e., Spokane, Thurston, or Cowlitz counties).
- Provide, in partnership with Arcora Foundation, a joint progress report to the Legislature on December 1, 2017, and December 1, 2018, about the OHC pilot project's implementation.<sup>10,11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) Access to Baby and Child Dentistry Billing Guide (for clients through age 5); accessed on July 15, 2021, from [hca.wa.gov](http://hca.wa.gov).

<sup>8</sup> WAC 182-535-1245 Access to baby and child dentistry (ABCD) program; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [app.leg.wa.gov](http://app.leg.wa.gov).

<sup>9</sup> Arcora: The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [arcorafoundation.org](http://arcorafoundation.org).

<sup>10</sup> "Oral Health Connections Pilot Project: Enhanced Periodontal Services for women experiencing pregnancy and clients with diabetes", December 1, 2017; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [app.leg.wa.gov](http://app.leg.wa.gov).

<sup>11</sup> "Oral health Connections Project: Enhanced Periodontal Services for Women Experiencing Pregnancy and Adult Clients with Diabetes", December 1, 2018; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [app.leg.wa.gov](http://app.leg.wa.gov). This legislative report referred to the requirement in the 2018 supplemental state operating budget to contract with dental managed care organizations (MCOs) throughout the state to administer the Apple Health dental benefit, effective January 1, 2019. HCA later rescheduled that launch date to July 1, 2019. However, in May 2019, the Legislature removed that requirement in the 2019-21 state operating budget and directed that HCA must provide Apple Health dental services "through fee-for-service and may not proceed with either a carved-out or a carved-in managed care dental option." See Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1109, Chapter 415, Laws of 2019, Partial Veto, Section 211(52); accessed on July 15, 2021, from [lawfiles.leg.wa.gov](http://lawfiles.leg.wa.gov).

## Implementation efforts

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To implement the OHC pilot project successfully, HCA:

- Received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 19, 2018, to implement the OHC pilot project.
- Established the OHC pilot project rules in WAC 182-535-1270.<sup>12</sup>
- Made changes to the Apple Health claims system (ProviderOne) and developed both the OHC pilot project billing guide<sup>13</sup> and processes to reimburse dental providers participating in the OHC pilot project at higher rates for their qualifying services. Appendix A contains tables listing the reimbursement amounts for qualifying dental procedures.
- Instituted a no-cost contract with Arcora Foundation for deliverables related to the OHC pilot project.

OHC pilot project rules define which Apple Health clients are eligible or ineligible for participation, and what dental providers must do to qualify for participating in the OHC pilot project.

- **Eligible Apple Health clients must be:**
  - Age 21 to 64;
  - Pregnant (which includes the 60-day postpartum period from the date of delivery) or diabetic (Type I or II), or both;
  - Receiving OHC pilot project services in Cowlitz, Spokane, or Thurston Counties; and
  - Referred by a nondental primary health care provider, managed care organization, or a designated community organization to a qualified oral health connections pilot project dental provider.<sup>14</sup>
- **Apple Health clients are ineligible if they are enrolled in:**
  - Family Planning Only programs under chapter 182-532 WAC;<sup>15</sup>
  - Medical Care Services program under WAC 182-508-0005;<sup>16</sup> or
  - Both Medicaid and Medicare.<sup>17</sup>
- **Apple Health-contracted dental providers may participate in the OHC pilot project, if they both:**
  - Provide services in Cowlitz, Spokane, or Thurston counties; and
  - Complete the OHC pilot project training to become certified.

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<sup>12</sup> WAC 182-535-1270 Oral health connections pilot project; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [app.leg.wa.gov](http://app.leg.wa.gov).

<sup>13</sup> "Oral health Connections (OHC) Pilot Project Billing Guide (For services provided in Cowlitz, Spokane, and Thurston counties only)"; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [hca.wa.gov](http://hca.wa.gov).

<sup>14</sup> WAC 182-535-1270 Oral health connections pilot project; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [app.leg.wa.gov](http://app.leg.wa.gov).

<sup>15</sup> Chapter 182-532 WAC Reproductive Health/Family Planning Only Programs; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [app.leg.wa.gov](http://app.leg.wa.gov).

<sup>16</sup> WAC 182-508-0005 Eligibility for Washington apple health medical care services eligibility and scope of coverage; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [app.leg.wa.gov](http://app.leg.wa.gov).

<sup>17</sup> WAC 182-535-1270 Oral health connections pilot project; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [app.leg.wa.gov](http://app.leg.wa.gov).

Arcora Foundation contracted with the following entities to facilitate OHC pilot project implementation:

- The University of Washington School of Dentistry,<sup>18</sup> which assisted Arcora Foundation in the development of the OHC pilot project training curriculum and certification process for dental providers.
- Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington,<sup>19</sup> the Spokane Regional Health District,<sup>20</sup> CHOICE Regional Health Network<sup>21</sup>, and Youth and Family Link<sup>22</sup> to provide care coordination services and to help Apple Health clients make and keep dental appointments.
- The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis Division (RDA)<sup>23</sup> to develop and implement an evaluation of the OHC pilot project, including both quantitative and qualitative data analyses.

In preparation for the OHC pilot project's launch, numerous outreach and training efforts occurred in Cowlitz, Spokane, and Thurston Counties (pilot counties) between May 2018 and December 2018. For example:

- Arcora Foundation and local community partners engaged local dentists in the pilot counties through personal visits, stakeholder groups, and feedback sessions to help inform the OHC pilot project design and recruit providers for OHC pilot project participation.
- HCA, Arcora Foundation, and the University of Washington School of Dentistry conducted in-person trainings at local dental societies in pilot counties to certify dental providers for OHC pilot project participation.
- Arcora Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Washington School of Dentistry, delivered OHC pilot project training to medical providers. This helped the medical providers to recognize the connection between oral health and systemic health, address oral health in their medical setting, and refer eligible OHC patients to dental care. Medical providers refer clients by using Arcora Foundation's online- or telephone-based DentistLink referral tool.<sup>24</sup>
- Arcora Foundation also provided outreach and education to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Tribes/Urban Indian Health Programs within the pilot counties to promote participation in the OHC pilot project. The educational efforts emphasized that FQHCs and RHCs can receive reimbursement for three additional encounters for periodontal treatments by participating in the OHC pilot project.

Outreach and training efforts have been ongoing throughout the duration of the OHC pilot project, which launched on January 1, 2019.

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<sup>18</sup> University of Washington School of Dentistry; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [dental.washington.edu](https://dental.washington.edu).

<sup>19</sup> Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [altcrew.org](https://altcrew.org).

<sup>20</sup> Spokane Regional Health District; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [srhd.org](https://srhd.org).

<sup>21</sup> CHOICE Regional Health Network; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [crhn.org](https://crhn.org).

<sup>22</sup> Youth and Family Link; accessed on July 23, 2021, from [linkprogram.org](https://linkprogram.org).

<sup>23</sup> Research and Data Analysis Division, Facilities, Finance and Analytics Administration, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [dshs.wa.gov](https://dshs.wa.gov).

<sup>24</sup> DentistLink; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [dentistlink.org](https://dentistlink.org).



## Key findings

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Although the OHC pilot project will conclude December 31, 2021, related dental service utilization data is available for this legislative report through June 30, 2021. Since its launch, OHC pilot project participation volumes have been too small to evaluate the impact its enhanced dental benefits have had on health outcomes or and medical care costs. Instead, HCA's evaluation focuses on OHC pilot project's utilization as a proxy for access to dental care. Below is information about dental provider participation and dental service utilization.

### Dental provider participation

Dental provider participation has been lower than HCA expected. From the time the OHC pilot project launched, HCA has reimbursed seven dental providers for OHC pilot project services. These providers include six in Spokane County and one in Thurston County. There were none in Cowlitz County.<sup>25</sup> Spokane County's population is greater than the populations of Cowlitz and Thurston Counties combined, which helps to explain some of the uneven distribution of participating OHC pilot project providers.<sup>26</sup> HCA continues to reach out to dental providers in Cowlitz County about participating in the OHC pilot project.

### Provider survey

At Arcora Foundation's direction, RDA surveyed dental providers in the pilot counties between July 2020 and September 2020 to learn more about OHC pilot program participation and identify opportunities for improvement. [Appendix B](#) contains RDA's report on the survey results. Respondents who were successfully participating in the OHC pilot project indicated that they were pleased with the pilot and reported that their patients were grateful to receive the additional dental services. However, other dental providers reported that they:

- Were unaware of or insufficiently familiar with the OHC pilot program, including some providers who had previously received the necessary training to become certified and participate in the OHC pilot program.
- Would like assistance to enroll in the OHC pilot program and to bill for the pilot's services, citing difficulties with identifying eligible patients and navigating a billing process they described as confusing and complicated, compared to billing Apple Health generally.

Of the 67 dental providers who responded to the question "What would encourage you to participate (or continue participation) in the Oral Health Connections pilot [project]?", 52 providers (about 78 percent) indicated that higher Medicaid billing rates than Medicaid alone would encourage their participation.

[Table A3 in Appendix A](#) lists amounts that approximate what Washington State dental providers typically bill for the procedures, for which the OHC pilot project reimburses at enhanced rates. These billed amounts are notably higher than the OHC pilot project enhanced rates.

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<sup>25</sup> HCA Financial Services Division pulled data from the ProviderOne Operational Data Store on July 13, 2021, to calculate the OHC pilot project provider totals.

<sup>26</sup> The Washington State Office of Financial Management estimates that, as of April 1, 2021: Spokane County's population is 527,600; Cowlitz County's population is 111,800; and Thurston County's population is 295,300. See "April 1, 2021 Population of Cities, Towns and Counties Used for Allocation of Selected State Revenues: State of Washington"; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [ofm.wa.gov](https://ofm.wa.gov).

## Additional provider feedback

Multiple FQHCs, RHCs, and Tribal/Urban Indian Health Clinics have shared anecdotally with HCA's Dental Program staff that the OHC pilot project's higher reimbursement rates were insufficient to incentivize their participation. Although these providers would have been able to receive more encounters for periodontal maintenance, that revenue would not have been sufficient to offset the additional administrative burden associated with identifying eligible patients and billing for the OHC pilot project. In addition, some providers have reported challenges associated with the requirement to include expedited prior authorization numbers in the billing documentation.

In response to the feedback RDA received in the survey and the communication HCA Dental Program staff received from various providers, HCA has both produced additional training materials and provided technical assistance directly to relevant providers.

## Dental service utilization

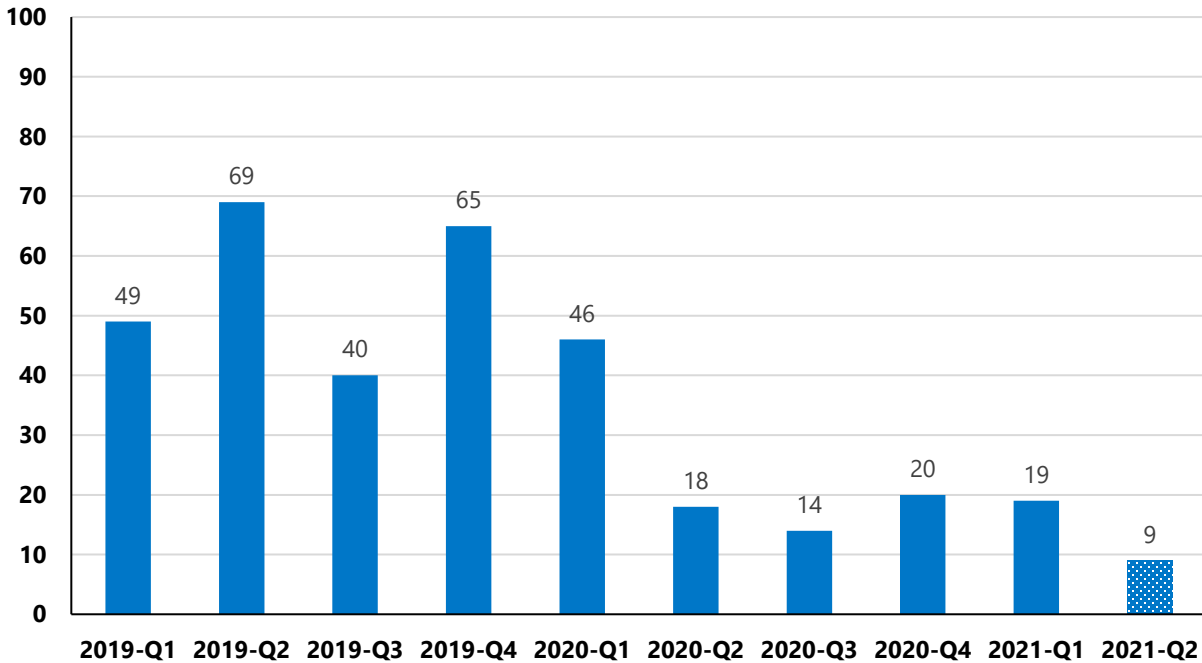
From January 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021, a total of 129 unique Apple Health clients received 349 dental procedures through the OHC pilot program. Apple Health expenditures for the OHC pilot program dental procedures from January 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021, totaled \$12,208.64, or about 1.2 percent of the \$1 million budget appropriation.<sup>27</sup>

Figure 1 below shows that the number of dental procedures Apple Health clients received through the OHC pilot project varied considerably over time. The average (mean) count of dental procedures per calendar quarter from the first calendar quarter of 2019 (i.e., 2019-Q1) through 2020-Q1 was 53.8 and ranged from 40 procedures in 2019-Q3 to 69 procedures in 2019-Q2.

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<sup>27</sup> HCA Financial Services Division pulled data from the ProviderOne Operational Data Store on July 28, 2021, to calculate these totals.

**Figure 1 – Number of Oral Health Connections (OHC) pilot project dental procedures by calendar quarter. From January 2019 through June 2021**



Source: HCA Financial Services Division queried the ProviderOne Operational Data Store in July 2021

Notes: coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) restrictions began in March 2020; dental procedure counts for 2021-Q2 are incomplete, due to claims lag

However, the count of dental procedures suddenly decreased to 18 during 2020-Q2 and then to 14 procedures during 2020-Q3. These decreases coincided with restrictions related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in Washington State, which began in March 2020. For example, on:

- March 19, 2020, the Governor issued Proclamation 20-24 “Restrictions on Non Urgent Medical Procedures”, which closed dental offices for all procedures except emergency services from through May 18, 2020.<sup>28</sup>
- March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Proclamation 20-25 “Stay Home—Stay Healthy”, which prohibited “all people in Washington State from leaving their homes or participating in social, spiritual and recreational gatherings of any kind regardless of the number of participants, and all non-essential businesses in Washington State from conducting business, within the limitations provided herein.”<sup>29</sup>

COVID-19 conditions have improved, and the related restrictions have generally lessened in Washington State since the end of March 2021. Although the number of OHC pilot project procedures have been increasing since 2020-Q3, they have not yet recovered to their pre-COVID-19 levels. For example, 19 dental procedures occurred in 2021-Q1, which is about 39 percent the 49 procedures that occurred in 2019-Q1, or about 41 percent of the 46 procedures that occurred in 2020-Q1.

<sup>28</sup> “Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamation 20-05: 20-24 Restrictions on Non Urgent Medical Procedures”; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [governor.wa.gov](http://governor.wa.gov).

<sup>29</sup> “Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamation 20-05: 20-25 Stay Home—Stay Healthy”; accessed on July 15, 2021, from [governor.wa.gov](http://governor.wa.gov).

The OHC pilot project's recovery is notably lower than what RDA observed for comparable Apple Health dental procedures in the pilot counties during 2021-Q1, which realized about 85 percent recovery from 2019-Q1 and about 100 percent recovery from 2020-Q1. Extrapolating from RDA's survey results, it is possible that dental providers have been prioritizing OHC pilot project procedures lower, due to billing difficulties, as they try to recuperate revenue losses that they likely experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, more study would be necessary to evaluate this or other possible explanations for the OHC pilot project's recovery through 2021-Q2.

## Conclusion

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Adults with diabetes or who are pregnant are at increased risk for developing periodontal disease. Treatment often requires more frequent maintenance to control the advancement of periodontal disease. Untreated periodontal disease is known to contribute to poor health outcomes particularly for those with underlying health conditions like diabetes and pregnancy.

The Legislature required HCA to establish the OHC pilot project to address this need, and HCA launched the project on January 1, 2019. To implement the pilot, HCA established rules for the pilot project's client and provider eligibility, developed billing processes, and collaborated with Arcora Foundation, the University of Washington School of Dentistry, RDA, and other statewide and local entities.

The OHC pilot project has provided greater access to periodontal dental care for Apple Health clients. However, participation in the OHC pilot project has been lower than HCA expected, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, billing challenges, and the need for higher reimbursement rates. HCA continues to work with dental providers to address challenges with billing for OHC pilot project dental procedures. Apple Health dental procedure reimbursement rates increased by about 100 percent beginning on July 1, 2021. [Table A2 in Appendix A](#) contains the increased rates.

HCA and Arcora Foundation will consider findings from the original three-year pilot before extending the OHC pilot project in January 2022, which will possibly include additional procedures, a broader range of eligible client ages, and other reimbursement enhancements. HCA will submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2022, outlining the process of the extended pilot program.

## Appendix A — Oral Health Connections pilot project dental procedure reimbursement amounts

Table A1 below lists the OHC pilot project dental procedures for which Apple Health reimburses dental providers at higher rates than the regular, non-OHC pilot project Apple Health dental benefit. The table includes the reimbursement amounts from when the OHC pilot project launched on January 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021.

**Table A1 — Apple Health maximum allowable Oral Health Connections (OHC) pilot project and non-OHC pilot project reimbursement amounts for covered adult dental procedures. From January 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021**

Dental procedure name and code	OHC pilot project maximum allowable reimbursement	Non-OHC pilot project maximum allowable reimbursement
Comprehensive Oral Evaluation — new or established patient (D0150)	\$39.00	\$24.84
Intraoral — complete series (including bitewings) (D0210)	\$50.55	\$32.20
Bitewings four radiographic images (D0274)	\$12.98	\$8.28
Periodontal scaling and root planing (4+ teeth/quadrant) (D4341)	\$37.97	\$24.18
Periodontal scaling and root planing (1-3 teeth/quadrant) (D4342)	\$19.73	\$12.57
Periodontal maintenance (D4910)	\$72.20	\$46.00

Source: Apple Health dental program fee schedule (January 1, 2019); accessed on July 14, 2021, from [hca.wa.gov](http://hca.wa.gov).

Notes: "code" refers to Current Dental Terminology (CDT) procedure code; "adults" are age 21 and older

Table A2 below contains the reimbursement amounts for these procedures, which increased on July 1, 2021, by about 100 percent from the amounts in place from January 1, 2019, through June 30, 2021.

**Table A2 — Apple Health maximum allowable Oral Health Connections (OHC) pilot project and non-OHC pilot project reimbursement amounts for covered adult dental procedures, as of July 1, 2021**

Dental procedure name and code	OHC pilot project maximum allowable reimbursement	Non-OHC pilot project maximum allowable reimbursement
Comprehensive Oral Evaluation — new or established patient (D0150)	\$77.00	\$49.68
Intraoral — complete series (including bitewings) (D0210)	\$99.82	\$64.40
Bitewings four radiographic images (D0274)	\$25.67	\$16.56
Periodontal scaling and root planing (4+ teeth/quadrant) (D4341)	\$74.96	\$48.36
Periodontal scaling and root planing (1-3 teeth/quadrant) (D4342)	\$38.95	\$25.13
Periodontal maintenance (D4910)	\$142.60	\$92.00

Source: Apple Health dental program fee schedule (July 1, 2021); accessed on July 14, 2021, from [hca.wa.gov](http://hca.wa.gov).

Notes: “code” refers to Current Dental Terminology (CDT) procedure code; “adults” are age 21 and older

Table A3 lists amounts that approximate what Washington State dental providers typically bill for these procedures. These amounts are notably higher than what Apple Health currently reimburses, per table A2.

**Table A3 — Median billed amounts in Washington State for dental procedures for which Oral Health Connections (OHC) pilot project pays enhanced rates**

Dental procedure name and code	Median billed amounts
Comprehensive Oral Evaluation — new or established patient (D0150)	\$106.67
Intraoral — complete series (including bitewings) (D0210)	\$157.67
Bitewings four radiographic images (D0274)	\$77.33
Periodontal scaling and root planing (4+ teeth/quadrant) (D4341)	\$304.67
Periodontal scaling and root planing (1-3 teeth/quadrant) (D4342)	\$225.67
Periodontal maintenance (D4910)	\$162.67

Source: HCA Financial Services Division pulled National Dental Advisory Service (NDAS) data from 2021 NDAS software

Notes: “code” refers to Current Dental Terminology (CDT) procedure code; “median billed amounts” means the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of what dental providers in the following three Washington State ZIP codes bill for these dental procedures: 98004 (Bellevue), 98504 (Olympia), and 99201 (Spokane)

## Appendix B — Dental provider survey results

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Appendix B contains eight pages of dental provider survey results.

To access this appendix, [please view it on our website](#).

If you have difficulty viewing this appendix, contact HCA and an electronic copy will be provided.