

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-8016

Re: Payment Clarification of Dental Treatment for Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

We appreciate your efforts to improve access to medically necessary dental coverage for Medicare enrollees and request that you continue reviewing additional clinical evidence linking dental treatment to successful medical outcomes. Specifically, we are writing in support of nominations we understand you are receiving for clarification of payment policy for dental services that are inextricably linked, substantially related and integral to the clinical success of covered medical services used for the treatment of Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes mellitus (diabetes).

As demonstrated by the clinical evidence, dental services are often integral to the successful care and management of individuals with diabetes due to the close connection between oral disease and diabetes. Specifically, individuals living with diabetes are documented to be at increased risk and severity of oral diseases, such as periodontitis, tooth loss, dry mouth, and oral infections. The role played by oral diseases in fostering inflammation puts persons with diabetes at risk for an array of micro and macrovascular complications, including retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy, cardiovascular diseases, and strokes. Similarly, oral diseases are documented as affecting insulin sensitivity and blood glucose control which contribute to serious diabetes complications, such as cardiovascular disease and kidney disease.

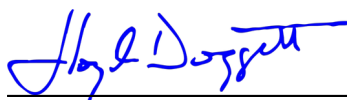
Fortunately, the diagnosis and treatment of dental infections is proven effective in protecting beneficiaries with diabetes, resulting in reduced hospitalizations. For this reason, such treatment is recommended by American Diabetes Association clinical guidelines and is supported by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, among other notable stakeholders.

We appreciate your consideration of diabetes as you work to clarify Medicare payment policy for medically necessary oral and dental care. With a substantial portion of the Medicare population currently lacking access to medically necessary dental treatment, your efforts hold the promise of making a direct and meaningful impact in the lives of millions of Medicare beneficiaries.

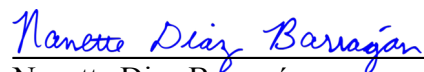
Sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



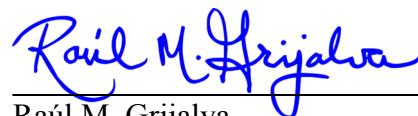
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



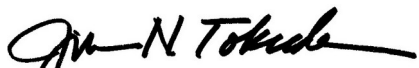
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Jiji Tokuda
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
Member of Congress



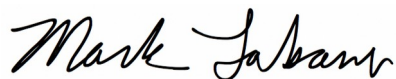
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



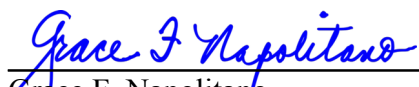
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



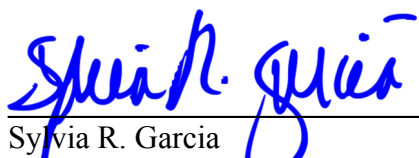
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress




Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



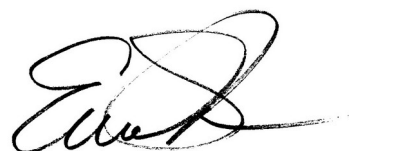
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress




Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



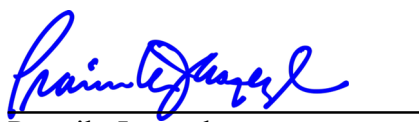
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



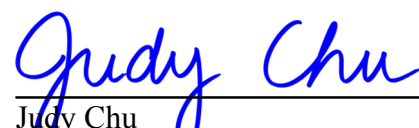
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress




Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



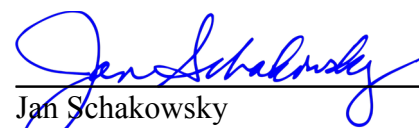
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



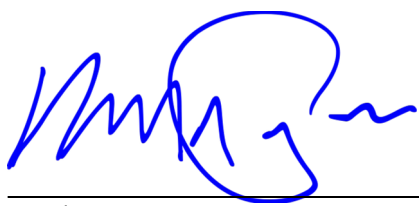
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



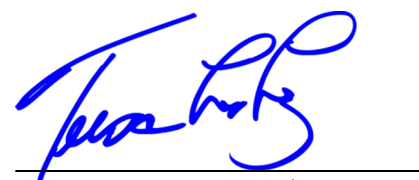
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress