

Spring 2015

News for the  
Dentist and Staff

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# The Incisor

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Tom Raffio  
President & CEO  
Northeast Delta Dental

## The Supreme Court and the ACA: Round III

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) news of note these days is the United States Supreme Court decision in the *King v. Burwell* case, which will be released sometime before the end of June 2015. The plaintiffs in the case are challenging the Internal Revenue Services' (Department of Treasury) authority to authorize payment of the ACA's health plan premium subsidies to individuals who have purchased their health plan on Health Insurance Marketplaces that were not established by a state, i.e., "state-based Exchanges." In other words, will the millions of people who bought their health plans on the federally facilitated Exchange, *HealthCare.gov*, no longer be eligible for the health premium subsidy (federal tax credit) that makes their medical plan affordable?

The possibility that millions of constituents who did not have affordable health insurance before the ACA could find themselves without it again is motivating members of Congress in Washington to come up with a "Plan B" in case the plaintiffs win. One plan is to pass federal legislation that will allow the subsidies to continue "as is" long enough for states to create their state-based Exchanges. Since Congress can redefine what a "state-based Exchange" is, it can write the definition broadly enough to allow a state to tie into the *HealthCare.gov* web-based technology and consider that a state-based Exchange. That would likely be the quickest and easiest "fix" for states that want their citizens to continue receiving the subsidies.

Members of Congress who remain opposed to the ACA are talking of using a decision for the plaintiffs as an opportunity to gut the ACA. Those members are mindful, though, of the many ACA provisions that voters strongly favor: kids staying on parents' medical plans until age 26, no health plan denials based on pre-existing health conditions, all preventive medical services covered 100% by insurers, etc. How far those efforts to cut back the ACA can go will be tempered by fear of voter reprisals.

This is the third ACA-related case the Supreme Court has heard. Recall its decision on the question of whether the federal government could withhold existing Medicaid funding from states that did not expand their Medicaid programs pursuant to the ACA's requirement to do so; the Justices' decision making Medicaid expansion optional at each state's choosing was outside of the possible outcomes pundits and legal experts had anticipated. The Supremes could surprise us again with an unexpected interpretation of the ACA that leaves all looking for a "Plan C".



**Save the date...**

*Dr. Thurston J. Carpenter Memorial Golf Tournament*

*Friday, October 2, 2015 • The Ledges Golf Club • York, Maine*



## Center for Technology's Assisting Students Learn About P.A.N.D.A.

Eleanor Vien recently presented the Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness (P.A.N.D.A.) program to the 2015 class of dental assisting students and their professor, Beth Ladd at the Center for Technology in Essex Junction, Vermont.

Of all the P.A.N.D.A. presentations Eleanor has made over the past 22 years, this was by far the most engaged and engaging class ever. All the students had questions or comments and eagerly joined in the discussion. By the end of the session, the students were able to identify the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect; they knew their reporting responsibilities; and they learned to whom to make the reports.

## Northeast Delta Dental Foundation Summary

The Northeast Delta Dental Foundation Board of Directors recently awarded grants of \$216,489.90. These grants will improve access to oral healthcare and education for communities in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

- Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center – Dental Supplies (\$5,000)
- SmilePartners City of Portland Public Health & Human Services (\$7,000)
- Ammonoosuc Community Health Services – Dental Equipment (\$10,000)
- Harbor Homes – Harbor Care Health and Wellness Center's Dental Clinic for the Homeless (\$10,000)
- Good Neighbor Health Clinic/Red Logan Dental Clinic – Dental Externship Program (\$6,000)
- Windsor Hospital Corporation Mt. Ascutney Hospital – Windsor Smiles school-based dental program (\$5,346.90)

The Foundation is proud to collaborate with these organizations to improve the oral health of the communities we serve. A complete list of grant recipients is available upon request.

## You Can Now Send Electronic Attachments through NEA *FastAttach*!

Northeast Delta Dental is pleased to announce that effective immediately, you may submit an unlimited number of electronic attachments through NEA's *FastAttach*! Simply register online at [www.nea-fast.com](http://www.nea-fast.com) or by calling NEA at 1-800-782-5150, option 2. NEA *FastAttach* works with most of the major clearinghouses such as Emdeon and Renaissance, as well as with most of the major practice management systems, such as Dentrix, EagleSoft, and PracticeWorks. The monthly fee is \$31.00 for an unlimited number of attachments. If you are currently using Tesia for electronic attachments, you may continue to do so, or you may choose to switch to NEA *FastAttach*.

### Special Offer for NEA *FastAttach*

To waive the \$200 registration fee and have a one month free trial of the service, use promotional code NEDDRZ1M in your communication with NEA. Contact NEA *FastAttach* online at [www.nea-fast.com](http://www.nea-fast.com) or by calling NEA at 1-800-782-5150, option 2 today to take advantage of this special offer! Please be advised that the special offer expires January 1, 2016.

Northeast Delta Dental  
PROMO: NEDDRZ1M  
\$200 Registration Fee Waived  
& One Month Free Service  
Expires 1/1/2016



DENTAL

## Streamline Processes with *FastAttach*®

### What is *FastAttach*®

For both large and small dental providers, claims with attachments continue to be one of the main contributors to lengthy claim processing delays and claim denials. *FastAttach*® vastly improves revenue cycles by allowing providers to efficiently transmit x-rays, perio charts, EOBs, narratives, or any other documentation required by a payor to adjudicate a dental claim. It automatically populates claim data into *FastAttach*, eliminating the need for time consuming manual data entry. *FastAttach* from MEA|NEA interfaces with most major practice management systems to streamline your office's revenue cycle.

MEA|NEA is a provider of secure electronic exchange of information, which allows dentists to transmit all supporting claim documentation, via the Internet, for payors to view in support of electronic claims. *FastAttach* is an encrypted, Internet based system and meets HIPAA and HCFA security requirements.

### How does *FastAttach*® work?

The practice can capture dental images through one of the *FastAttach* image acquisition methods, such as, screen capture, file import, scanner or mobile device capture through *FastKapture*. Once the image is captured in *FastAttach*, the practice transmits the image to the MEA|NEA repository.

MEA|NEA immediately sends a report back to the practice with an NEA Attachment Tracking Number for each file. The practice places the NEA Tracking Number in the remarks or NTE section of the claim and sends the claim electronically through their claims clearinghouse.

### Easy to Use & Access

- ← Simple, easy to read screens
- ← Minimal training required
- ← 24/7 online access to your images
- ← Enables image sharing with other providers
- ← Works well for solo offices, multiple locations, multi-specialty clinics and more

### Unparalleled Customer Service

- ← UNLIMITED customer service and support
- ← Online Chat support available
- ← Experienced knowledgeable support staff

### Get Started *FAST*

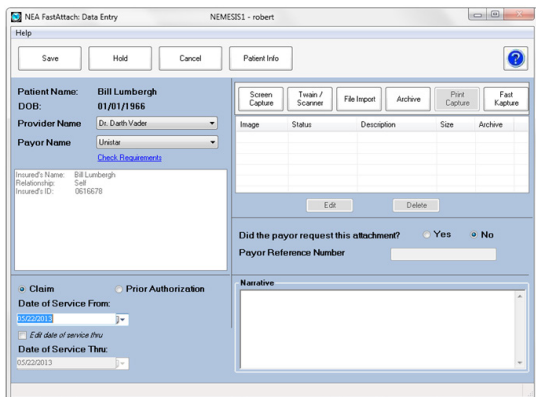
- ← Minimal up-front costs
- ← Rapid implementation (most take <1 hour)
- ← Compatible with all dental practice management systems and clearinghouses

### Benefits:

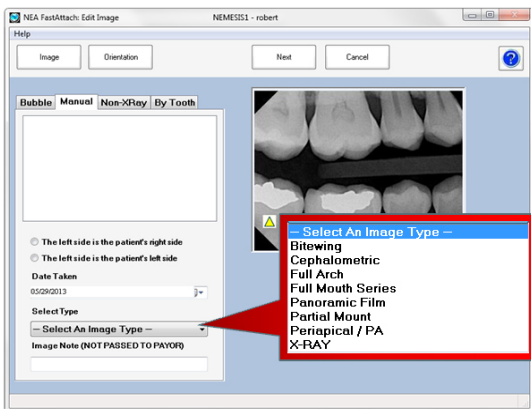
- Eliminates lost attachments
- Saves time and money
- Enhances revenue cycle management
- Enables better denial tracking
- Unlimited transmissions for a low monthly fee
- Works with scanners, mobile and digital imaging systems

Secure electronic information exchange isn't just part of our business, it *IS* our business.

Register on-line at [www.nea-fast.com](http://www.nea-fast.com) or call **1(800) 782-5150 option 2** to speak with a sales representative.



The Data Entry screen provides a simple interface for completing all of the attachment requirements.



X-rays can be easily added as well as other supporting documentation.

## Easily View Payor Requirements

Additionally, MEA|NEA offers *FastLook*, an integrated solution that helps eliminate confusion around individual payor attachment requirements for claims adjudication in one central site. With *FastLook*, providers can search by payor name and procedure code to determine if an attachment needs to be sent and if so, the exact parameters of what needs to be sent. Knowing this up-front eliminates the hassle of sending unnecessary attachments thus saving valuable time.

## By the Numbers

**700+** dental plans

Clients served in all **50** states

**42,000+**  
dental offices

**10 million+** images yearly

**0** lost attachments

Register on-line at [www.nea-fast.com](http://www.nea-fast.com)  
or call (800) 782-5150 opt. 2  
to speak with a sales representative.



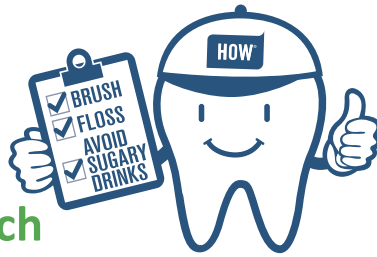
3577 Parkway Lane, Suite 250 • Norcross GA 30092

Phone: 800-782-5150 • Fax: 770-441-3204

[www.nea-fast.com](http://www.nea-fast.com)

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## HOW® Smile Coach

Northeast Delta Dental is proud to introduce the HOW® Smile Coach. The Smile Coach will be reaching out to all of your HOW registered patients with tips and tools to help them achieve their best oral and overall health. The Smile Coach has already begun to engage your HOW registered patients with tips about brushing, flossing, and replacing their toothbrushes. Be sure to check out Smile Coach Monthly at <http://smilecoachmonthly.com>

## Dental Consultants' Corner Core Buildups and Restorative Foundations

### Core buildup, D2950

As you know, the ADA's description of a core buildup "refers to building up of coronal structure when there is insufficient retention for a separate extracoronal restorative procedure. A core buildup is not a filler to eliminate any undercut, box form, or concave irregularity in a preparation."

Northeast Delta Dental's criteria for approval of benefits for a core buildup are as follows:

**A core buildup is generally indicated if all the following criteria are met:**

- 50% or more of the tooth structure is fractured or carious;
- The preparation is at or below the gingival crest;
- Less than 3 mm of sound dentin remains vertically above the preparation line in opposing walls where the crown margins will be located;

If these criteria are not met, benefits for the core buildup will be disallowed and the patient will not be responsible for the charge. Please note that procedures involving replacement of tooth structure for any purpose other than obtaining adequate retention will not be considered a core buildup for benefit approval.

### Restorative foundation for an indirect restoration, D2949

The ADA's description of this procedure is "placement of restorative material to yield a more ideal form, including elimination of undercuts."

Northeast Delta Dental disallows benefits for this procedure as it is considered to be a component of the definitive indirect restoration. The patient will not be responsible for the charge.

Please feel free to contact Northeast Delta Dental's dental consultants by calling 1-800-537-1815 and asking to speak to a dental consultant.

## New Participating Dentists

We are pleased to announce that the following dentists have joined Northeast Delta Dental's networks in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont:

### Maine

Raymond Helinski, DDS  
Vyacheslav Dmytruk, DMD  
Kevin Carey, Jr., DMD  
Abdul Shaikh, DMD  
Benjamin Murray, DMD  
Nii Norte Lokko, DMD  
John Hauge, DMD  
Christopher King, DMD  
Lionel Vachon, DDS  
Linda Baughan, DDS  
Yang Kang, DDS  
Olin Farrior, DMD  
Mohamed Abouelnaga, DDS  
Jay Beauchemin, DDS  
Vasiliki Maseli, DDS  
Namita Khandelwal, BDS  
Jeffrey Finegold, DMD  
David Arghavani, DDS  
Robert Quintano, DDS  
Alexis Hallissey, DMD  
Brendan Hallissey, DMD  
Meera Sharma, DMD  
Thomas Bauer, DDS  
Foteini Touloumi, DDS

### New Hampshire

Kathleen Rowley, DDS  
Laura Simon, DMD  
Priti Amlani, DMD  
Valerie Martins, DMD  
Amanda Kramer, DMD  
Patrick Carroll, DMD  
Jake Park, DDS  
David Frank, DMD  
Sheri Lefty, DDS  
Hala Mahmod, DMD  
Sam Shamardi, DMD  
Ronald Perry, DMD  
Petro Matsyshyn, DDS  
Ravindra Burugapalli, DMD  
Jeong Eun Park, DMD  
James Katib, DMD  
Margaret Spargimino, DMD

### Vermont

Mari Berry, DMD  
Samer Rizk DMD  
David Averill, DDS

## Holiday Closures

Northeast Delta Dental will be closed for the following holidays. Our website, [nedelta.com](http://nedelta.com), will continue to be available.

Memorial Day	Monday, May 25, 2015 (Observed)
Independence Day	Friday, July 3, 2015 (Observed)

## Office Changes or Updates

Please contact the Provider Services department at 1-800-537-1715, extension 1100, for any dentist and/or office changes or updates. These include, but are not limited to:

- New and/or change of physical or payment address(es)
- New and/or change of phone number(s)
- A dentist joining or leaving an office
- Closing of an office or practice
- Tax information changes
- New and/or changed NPI information
- Retirement
- Sale or purchase of a practice
- License status updates

Please be sure to notify the Provider Services department of all changes/updates **in advance** to ensure proper claims payment.