

# Incisor

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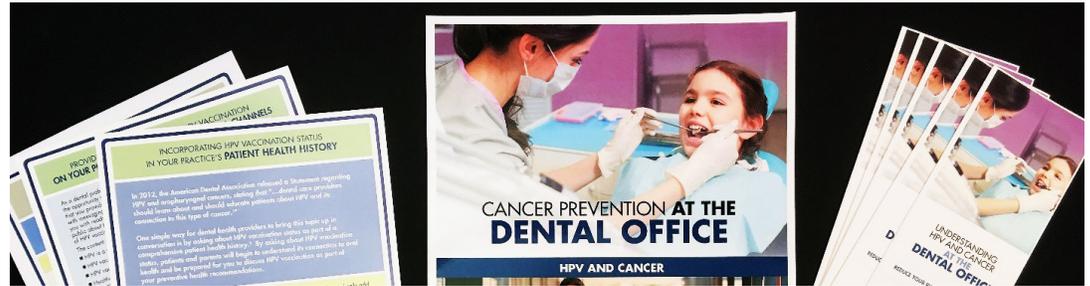
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## New HPV Vaccine Toolkit Available for New Hampshire Dental Offices

Dental care teams play an important supporting role in cancer prevention and early detection. Human papillomavirus (HPV) can cause a variety of cancers, including oropharyngeal cancer. Among cancer cases attributable to HPV in New Hampshire, oropharyngeal cancer is the most commonly diagnosed, especially in men.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, the number of oropharyngeal cancer cases attributable to HPV is increasing in our state among both men and women.<sup>1</sup> Recent research has demonstrated the HPV vaccine's ability to prevent oral HPV infection and, likely, HPV-attributable oropharyngeal cancers.<sup>2,3</sup> However, only 51.2% of New Hampshire 13-17 year-olds have completed this important vaccine series.<sup>4</sup>

The HPV vaccine is licensed for 9-26 year-old females, 9-21 year-old males, and some higher-risk 22-26 year-old males. Research has found the vaccine provides the strongest protection when it's given to younger adolescents, which is primarily why it's recommended to be given to 11-12 year-olds.<sup>5</sup> Children in this age range generally see their primary care providers less frequently than their dental health provider, and they generally have longer-term relationships with their dental health providers.<sup>6</sup> For these reasons, it's important that dental professionals feel comfortable:

- asking patients and parents about whether they have completed the HPV vaccine series,
- recommending they receive the HPV vaccine, and
- referring them to their primary care providers to answer any questions and to get the vaccine.

To support New Hampshire dental professionals in these efforts, an HPV toolkit has been developed that includes:

1. Sample questions to incorporate into your patient health history form
2. Script/talking points to help you recommend the HPV vaccine to parents and patients
3. Referral slips to help you refer patients to their primary care providers for the HPV vaccine
4. Brochures for parents and patients wanting additional information
5. Poster to display in your waiting room, exam rooms, or restrooms to educate patients about the connection between HPV and cancer
6. Sample educational messaging to incorporate into your practice's website and social media platforms

If you are interested in accessing these materials, please complete this brief order form and questionnaire by visiting <http://bit.do/DentalHPVOrderForm>. If you have any questions about the toolkit, please call 603-653-9960.

The development of this toolkit was led by Live HPV Cancer Free (a NH-based working group dedicated to increasing HPV vaccine rates in NH) and Team Maureen, in collaboration with the New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration, the New Hampshire Dental Society, the New Hampshire Dental Hygienists' Association, the New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition, and several New Hampshire-based dental practices.

<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, HPV-Associated Cancers in New Hampshire, 1999-2003 Data Brief, 2016: Concord, NH.  
<sup>2</sup> Beachler, D. C., Kreimer, A. R., Schiffman, M., Herrero, R., Wacholder, S., Rodriguez, A. C., ... & Jimenez, S. (2015). Multisite HPV16/18 vaccine efficacy against cervical, anal, and oral HPV infection. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 108(1), djv302.

<sup>3</sup> Chaturvedi, A. K., Graubard, B. I., Broutian, T., Pickard, R. K., Tong, Z. Y., Xiao, W., ... & Gillison, M. L. (2018). Effect of prophylactic human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination on oral HPV infections among young adults in the United States. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 36(3), 262.

<sup>4</sup> Walker, T.Y., et al., National, Regional, State, and Selected Local Area Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Years - United States, 2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*, 2017, 66(33): p. 874-882.

<sup>5</sup> Petrosky, E., et al., Use of 9-valent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine: updated HPV vaccination recommendations of the advisory committee on immunization practices. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*, 2015, 64(11): p. 300-4.

<sup>6</sup> Wagner, R. and A. Villa, Oral human papilloma virus infections and the role of the dental professional. *Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society*, 2017, 65(4): p. 12-15.



## Updated Coverage for General Anesthesia

Northeast Delta Dental's standard dental benefit plans cover up to one hour of general anesthesia, when performed in the dental office in conjunction with covered oral surgery procedures in the D7000 series of ADA procedure codes. However, these plans also allow an exception in accordance with New Hampshire Statute 415:18-h, Coverage for Dental Procedures; Dental Offices in that a child under the age of 6 with a complex dental condition, or a person with an exceptional medical condition or developmental disability, will be provided coverage for one hour of general anesthesia with covered procedures other than covered oral surgery procedures, also. Effective August 7, 2018, the age limit has been changed to under the age of 13 (cited below). The coverage is subject to contractual copayments, deductibles and maximums.

### 415:18-h Coverage for Dental Procedures; Dental Offices –

I. Each dental insurer or other similar entity, including Delta under RSA 420-F, that issues or renews any policy of group insurance providing benefits for oral surgical procedures, shall provide to each certificate holder who is a resident of New Hampshire coverage for the administration of general anesthesia administered by a licensed dentist for dental procedures performed in a dentist's office on a covered person who:

(a) Is a child under the age of 13 who is determined by a licensed dentist in conjunction with a licensed physician to have a dental condition of significant complexity which requires the child to receive general anesthesia for the treatment of such condition; or

(b) Is a person who has exceptional medical circumstances or a developmental disability as determined by a licensed physician which place the person at serious risk.

II. All of the terms and conditions of the covered person's policy shall apply to these services.

While this change is required for certificate holders residing in New Hampshire, we have extended the coverage exception under the same circumstances to Maine and Vermont. Along with the claim for dates of service on or after August 7, 2018, clinical notes, applicable radiographic images and photos (if available), and a physician's statement of the patient's exceptional medical condition or developmental disability are required in order to accurately process the claim or predetermination of benefits. Additionally, a notation should be made of "Anesthesia Exception Requested for Consultant Review" in the "Remarks" section of a paper claim, or in the "Comments" section of an electronic claim. If approved, benefits will be applied, subject to contractual copayments, deductibles and maximums. **Should you have any questions, please contact Eleanor Vien, Director of Professional Relations at 1-800-537-1715 or [evien@nedelta.com](mailto:evien@nedelta.com).**



## Helpful Tips to "Sink Your Teeth Into" #3

Northeast Delta Dental is marching to a million—a million covered dental lives, that is. We currently cover more than 876,000 people throughout the tri-state region, but our long-term goal is to cover at least one million by 2023. Why is that important? According to the National Association of Dental Plans, those with dental insurance are nearly three times more likely to go to the dentists than those without dental insurance. And that's important because, according to the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), individuals without dental benefits are more likely to have extractions and dentures and less likely to have restorative care or receive treatment for gum disease. Furthermore, those without dental benefits report higher incidences of other illness; they are:

- 67 percent more likely to have heart disease;
- 50 percent more likely to have osteoporosis; and
- 29 percent more likely to have diabetes.

They also visit the dentist less frequently—missing the opportunity for prevention and early treatment. Many of them account for the more than two million visits to emergency rooms for dental treatment annually.

## Consultants' Corner

The more information that you can provide to our consultants for review, the quicker your claims can be adjudicated! If you have intraoral photographic images available for your patients who need mucogingival surgery, submitting them along with the claim and clinical notes will expedite the review and claims processing. These images are also valuable when submitting claims for core build ups. The old adage, "A picture is worth a thousand words" certainly applies to claims for these procedures, as evidenced by the images below.





## Meet Craig H. Cohen, DMD, Oral Surgery Dental Consultant

Dr. Cohen was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut, and after attending Cornell University, returned to Connecticut for his dental education. He received his dental degree from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in 1979, and then continued his studies in oral and maxillofacial surgery in Hartford, Connecticut at Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Mt. Sinai Hospital, and the University of Connecticut, John Dempsey Medical Center.

After completion of his residency in 1983, he joined Dr. Alan Hirsch, an oral surgeon in Hanover, NH, with whom he practiced for several years prior to Dr. Hirsch's untimely departure from the practice due to injury. Dr. Keith Rogerson joined him in 1992, and the two had a thriving oral and maxillofacial practice in the Upper Valley until 2016 when they retired together, leaving the practice in the hands of Drs. Keith Kealey and Jill Brinkman.

In addition to his work here at Northeast Delta Dental, Dr. Cohen has been very busy in retirement spending as much time as possible with his wife of 43 years traveling the world. When he is at home, he can be found cycling with his wife on their tandem in the warmer months, or cross country and downhill skiing in the winter. He is also very active at the Red Logan Dental Clinic in White River Jct., VT, mentoring dental students from the University of New England and Tufts University who man (and woman) the clinic.



## Forms for Providers

Posted on the landing page of Northeast Delta Dental's Provider Website are the Forms for Providers. Please be advised that the forms are not posted there for dentists who are newly applying to join our networks, or participating dentists who are adding an office location. Please contact Provider Services at 1-800-537-1715, extension 1100 to obtain them. Thank you!



## Robert Chaikin, DMD

Robert Chaikin, DMD of Dover, New Hampshire was honored for his 45 years of participation with Northeast Delta Dental with a \$450.00 donation in his name to a charity of his choice. Dr. Chaikin chose to make a positive impact to the less fortunate in his community with a donation to the Wentworth Douglass Dental Center. Pictured from left to right are Wentworth Douglass Hospital's Ben Bradley, Director of Government Relations & Public Policy and Kelly Clark, Vice President of Philanthropy & Community Relations; Dr. Robert Chaikin; and Christa Keddie, RDH, Health and Wellness Solutions Specialist of Northeast Delta Dental.



## Donald Dumais, DDS

Stacy Plourde, RDH, Oral Health and Wellness Solutions Specialist presented Donald Dumais, DDS of Manchester New Hampshire with an engraved glass plaque in honor of his 30 years of participation with Northeast Delta Dental. Dr. Dumais also served with professionalism and dedication on the Delta Dental Plan of New Hampshire (DDPNH) Board of Directors for two terms, ending in 2002, as well as serving as Chair on the DDPNH Corporate Governance Committee.

## Save These Dates for Dental Team Training!



Please join us to hear the latest on new ADA procedure codes with their related processing policies, as well as any updates to established procedure codes and policies. We have some great enhancements to share with you about our Benefit Lookup, as well as Northeast Delta Dental's innovative Health *through* Oral Wellness® (HOW®) program, powered by PreViser®. We have scheduled a series of three free seminars, one each in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Watch your email for the invitations! The dates and venues are as follows:

**October 12, 2018** at the Hampton Inn, Bennington, Vermont

**November 2, 2018** at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor, Maine

**November 9, 2018** at Northeast Delta Dental's Conference Center, Concord, New Hampshire

All seminars are on Fridays and will run from 9 am until noon, with registration and a complimentary continental breakfast at 8:30 am. There is no cost to attend. For reservations, please contact Santos Lara, Sr. at [slara@nedelta.com](mailto:slara@nedelta.com), or 1-800-537-1715, extension 1239.

Everyone in attendance will be entered into a raffle for a door prize, so stay until the end to learn if you are the lucky winner! We look forward to seeing you and members of your dental team at one of the seminars!

## 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

George Ditomassi, DDS  
Charles Thomas II, DMD  
David Levasseur, DDS  
Amy Addington, DDS  
Dustin Nadeau, DMD  
Matthew Lawler, DMD  
Charles Munier, DMD  
Jeffrey Grosser, DDS  
Melissa Carrier, DDS  
Christopher Logan, DMD  
Jae Kim, DMD  
Tyler Gagnon, DMD  
Wesleyan Deibner, DMD  
Ziad Al Adham, DDS  
Hiba Alqasemi, DDS  
Jessica Smith, DMD  
Frederick Mesloh, DDS  
Kirston Barrett, DMD  
Ryan Salamon, DMD  
Alyssa Mann, DDS

### New Hampshire

Anitha Abdulrahiman, DMD  
Akm Rahman, DDS  
Nadar Ebeed, DMD  
Curtis Thibeault, DMD  
Andrew Harvey, DMD  
Daniel Garcia de Paredes, DDS  
Emery Ward, DDS  
Brittney Phillips, DMD  
Patrick Choi, DMD  
Kyle Stiefel, DDS  
Kristine Zeeb, DDS  
Swati Agnihotri, DMD  
Corey Wells, DMD  
Kyle Prohovich, DMD

### Vermont

Justin Hurlburt, DMD  
Robert Kolodziej, DMD  
James Lin, DMD  
Farid Hamidzadeh, DMD  
Noah Mustafa, DMD

## Holiday Closures

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

Labor Day

Monday, September 3, 2018

## 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.

## Northeast Delta Dental Foundation Grant Supports Donated Dental Services Programs in New Hampshire and Vermont

The Northeast Delta Dental Foundation approved \$24,500 in grants to support both the New Hampshire and Vermont Donated Dental Services (DDS) programs in 2018. Through the DDS program, volunteer dentists and labs donate comprehensive treatment to people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile. Every dollar spent on DDS programming generates \$8.87 in donated care.

A portion of the grant, \$15,000, will be utilized for the New Hampshire DDS program to provide 100 New Hampshire residents with \$255,000 in donated dental care. The remaining \$9,500 will go towards the Vermont DDS program's efforts to help 21 Vermonters receive \$63,000 in donated dental care.

"We are grateful for Northeast Delta Dental Foundation's generous financial support of DLN and the DDS Program. This grant will allow DDS to continue to help vulnerable people receive much-needed comprehensive dental treatment through our benevolent volunteer dentists and labs," said Jim Williamson, Chair of the DLN New Hampshire Leadership Council.

The Vermont DDS program utilizes a network of 57 dentists and five labs and has provided \$247,968 in donated treatment to 65 patients since its inception in 2013. The New Hampshire DDS program has provided \$3.6 million in donated treatment to almost 800 patients since its inception in 2002 through its network of 159 dentists and 22 labs.

Funds granted to DDS in both states cover the costs of a DDS coordinator who determines patient eligibility, links patients with nearby volunteer dentists, monitors patient progress and arranges laboratory services and the help of specialists. Most importantly, the Coordinator resolves any problems that may interfere with care and ensures patients and volunteers have a positive experience.

"We are proud to partner with New Hampshire and Vermont Donated Dental Services to help medically-fragile patients access necessary oral health care through its network of volunteer dentists. Oral health is a critical component of overall health and we are pleased to partner with organizations like Donated Dental Services who understand this important connection," said Kathleen B. Walker, Treasurer of the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation and Director of Marketing & Communications at Northeast Delta Dental.

- *This release courtesy Clair Diones, Dental Lifeline Network*