Dear Avesis Doctor:

Greetings from Avesis. As Chief Dental Officer of Avesis, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for all the work you have done to make the UPMC government dental programs work. As we approach the end of our second year, we are pleased with how the program has been going and are striving to continue to seek feedback from our Dental Advisory Board, our Members and our dental offices.

Please review the following changes and updates to the UPMC Health Plan programs listed below.

**CHANGES IN UPMC for KIDS – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012**

For calendar year 2012 Members enrolled in UPMC for Kids, will have access to a $1,000 expanded dental benefit. This benefit is separate and apart from their $1,500.00 annual maximum for standard benefits and separate and apart from their $5,200 lifetime orthodontic maximum. The Commonwealth has set aside a total of $1 million to fund this benefit for all CHIP members enrolled in all health plans. Once this fund is exhausted, there are no additional funds available.

Providers are required to request approval for the extended dental benefit. The request for Members to have access to these additional monies can be made during the prior authorization process or once you receive notification that the Member has reached their annual dollar maximum. If treatment is deemed to be medically necessary, the request will be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department (PID) to see if there are funds available and the provider and member will be notified that the request has been forwarded on to PID. Once a response has been received from PID both the provider and member will receive notification in writing as to the status of the request. Please feel free to contact Avesis at 888.209.1243 should you have any questions regarding this process.

**UPMC DENTAL PROGRAM CHANGES**

Since the start of Avesis’ administration there have been some changes to the dental programs offered by UPMC Health Plan. We have had questions from offices concerning those changes. We know that you often deal with Members who are not sure of their dental benefits, so we want to ensure that all offices are aware of the changes that have taken place.

There are two new plans being offered by UPMC Health Plan effective 1/1/2012.

**UPMC for Life Options** – This plan is a Medicare Advantage plan for Members who are dually eligible (meaning that they have both Medicare and Medical Assistance) that offers more choices than traditional Medicare, including routine dental benefits. Dental coverage under UPMC for Life Options includes preventive and diagnostic services.

The benefits at a glance for this new plan are as follows:

- $0 copayment for the following preventive services:
  - oral exams up to 1 visit(s) every six months
• cleanings up to 1 visit(s) every six months
• dental x-rays up to 1 visit(s) every six months
  ▪ No fillings or simple tooth extractions.
  ▪ No comprehensive dental allowance.

**UPMC for You Advantage** – This plan is a Medicare Advantage plan for Members who are dually eligible (meaning that they have both Medicare and Medical Assistance) that offers more choices than traditional Medicare, including routine dental benefits. Dental coverage under the UPMC for You Advantage includes both preventive and diagnostic services.

The benefits at a glance for this new plan are as follows:

  ▪ $0 copayment for the following preventive services:
    • oral exams up to 1 visit(s) every six months
    • cleanings up to 1 visit(s) every six months
    • dental x-rays up to 1 visit(s) every six months
  ▪ Additional benefits are available for fillings and simple tooth extractions only.

**CHANGES IN THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.**

As of this date we have not heard any news on this topic. As soon as we are aware of what changes will be occurring, Avesis will send a notice to the entire network.

We hope that your office has had a good year in 2011 and that experience will continue into 2012. Again, thank you for your participation with Avesis.

Sincerely,

Fred L Sharpe, DDS
Chief Dental Officer
Avesis Dental Plans