



March 15, 2019

To the Members of the Metrics and Scoring Committee:

The CCO Oregon Dental and Oral Health Workgroup appreciates the request by the OHA and Metrics and Scoring staff to review potential changes to the dental sealant metric specifications for 2020. We met this week to discuss and offer the following thoughts for your consideration.

Overall, we agree that aligning metrics across payer types and with other state and national systems wherever will better inform care. We also want to ensure that the clinical perspective and potential adverse effects of these potential changes are weighed. We are concerned that some of these changes may disincentivize what is best for the patient.

In particular, "excluding children with at least one sealant" may result in providers not sealing molars as soon as possible. Currently, many if not most providers will seal a molar as soon as it erupts. However, if sealing the first molar before the others erupt excludes the child from the measurement (denominator), this quick action would be disincentivized. We have the same concern with the potential changes to the age bands and raising the lower threshold from age 6, meaning that erupted molars may be left unsealed for children younger than age 7.

Lastly, is the age 10-14 band being dropped from the metric? It looks as though OHA currently tracks two bands: age 6-9 and age 10-14, but aligning with the potential DQA specifications will move this measure to age 6-9. If this is the case, we are concerned that the older age band (10-14) will no longer be measured and therefore no longer incentivized. First, what is the plan to address molars that erupt at a later age? And, secondly, this age band is more difficult to reach and removing this measurement may disincentivize providers from fully diving into the outreach and work to seal those molars.

Again, we appreciate your work and the desire to further alignment where we can without disturbing best practices of care.

Thank you,
The CCO Oregon Dental and Oral Health Workgroup

For further information or discussion, please contact Samantha Shepherd, CCO Oregon Executive Director at samantha@ccooregon.org or 928-699-1343.