

February 11, 2015

Thank you for inviting me to testify on SB 20 (HB1), an act relating to establishing and regulating licensed dental practitioners, specifically for the purpose of helping the committee understand how insurance companies, in our case the Delta Dental Plan of Vermont, would reimburse for work done by Licensed Dental Practitioners.

Our read of the bill is that the dental practitioner will work in the dental office under the same conditions and restrictions as does a dental hygienist in Vermont today. As such, reimbursement by Delta Dental will be handled in the same manner as it is for treatment rendered by a dental hygienist. When a dental hygienist performs a cleaning (prophylaxis), as example, it is billed under the name of the dentist or the practice, with the form being signed by the dentist, and payment is made no differently, other than the dollar amount will be different, than had the dental office billed for a root canal where treatment was provided by the dentist. In short, the end result, should the bill pass as written, is that reimbursement by Delta Dental will be no different for a service provided by a licensed dental practitioner once the provisions are in effect than it is for that same treatment being rendered by a dentist.

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