

# YOUR ADVOCATE

## Taking the lead on insurance reforms

**PDA knows that of all factors impacting the dental practice, the practices of third-party payers are probably the most important. Enacting insurance reforms in Pennsylvania is no easy task, but we are committed to representing members' interests before the legislature and the Governor's Administration.**

**PDA's staff and lobbyists work with members to identify the issues of most concern to dentists, develop legislative initiatives and political strategy and engage with policymakers to enact meaningful reforms.**

### **PDA's legislative agenda includes:**

- Prohibiting insurers from capping the fees participating dentists may charge patients for non-covered services.
- Limiting the timeframe in which insurers may retroactively deny dental claims so that small dental businesses are not adversely affected by unwarranted denials years after a claim was paid.
- Lobbying for assignment of benefits so that dentists receive payment directly for services rendered even if they are not participating with the insurer and patients are able to see their provider of choice.
- Mandating more insurance coverage for dental-related treatment, including temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders, cleft-palate and general anesthesia when needed to treat young children and special needs patients.
- Advocating for more funding in the state's Medical Assistance insurance program.
- Supporting legislation that would allow dentists to collectively negotiate contract terms with health insurance companies.
- Lobbying for the continued inclusion of dental coverage in the state's CHIP and adultBasic insurance programs.
- Lobbying for coordination of benefits so that dentists are adequately paid using patients' primary and secondary insurance.
- Monitoring denistry's role in the state's health insurance exchange which will become operational in 2014 as part of the federal Affordable Care Act of 2010.

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