



Missouri | Fall 2017

# practice**matters**



## For More Information

Call our Provider Services Center at **888-362-3368**

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We hope you enjoy the fall edition of Practice Matters. In this issue, you can read about our new Dual Special Needs Program, changes in Missouri provider enrollment, the new UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Missouri CMO – and much more.



## UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Launches a Dual Special Needs Program – Dual Complete Medicare Advantage

Effective Jan. 1, 2018, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will begin to serve eligible members in a new Dual Special Needs Plan (DSNP) – “UnitedHealthcare Dual Complete Medicare Advantage” in the following counties:

- Boone, Buchanan, Callaway, Cass, Christian, Clay, Cole, Crawford, Dade, Dallas, DeKalb, Franklin, Gasconade, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Laclede, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lincoln, Miller, Newton, Osage, Platte, Polk, Ray, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Louis, St. Louis City, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Taney, Warren, Washington, Webster and Wright.

This is a Medicare Advantage plan for members who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid. DSNPs are a specialized type of Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MAPD) and must follow existing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rules. DSNPs must:

- Adhere to required MAPD benefits
- Limit enrollment to Medicaid recipients (dually eligible – Medicare and Medicaid)
- Provide Part D benefits
- Offer targeted clinical programs, benefits and services.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will be communicating more details about the program in the coming weeks. Please visit [Link](#) > UnitedHealthcare Community Plan application > For Health Care Providers > Select your state > Dual Complete Medicare Advantage Program.

If you don't have an Optum ID, go to [UnitedHealthcareOnline.com](https://www.unitedhealthcare.com) and select “New User” to begin registration.

- To learn more about using Link, please visit [UnitedHealthcareOnline.com](https://www.unitedhealthcare.com) > Tools & Resources > Health Information Technology > [Link](#)



For more information about this program, please contact your network account manager or provider advocate.

## Encouraging Good Pediatric Dental Health

Tooth decay, also known as caries, is a bacterial disease that can be transmitted from mothers or other caregivers to children. Helping the mother before she has children or helping children when they are very young can help prevent the disease. For those already at risk, we can take several approaches to control those bacterial colonies without removing tooth structure.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommends that a child visit the dentist by age 1 or within six months after the first tooth erupts. But because most children visit their pediatrician or family physician for well child visits before that first dental visit, physicians can be an important influence in setting children on the path to good oral health.

While the child's dentist is responsible for performing a comprehensive oral examination, physicians can help assess a child's dental health and recommend appropriate follow up. A screening can identify children at risk and can be performed in about a minute using only a light and tongue blade to assess:

- What is the general condition of the teeth – are there white or brown spots? Decayed or broken teeth? Teeth that appear deformed or out of position?
- What do the gums look like? Are they pink? Red and puffy? Is there noticeable plaque or other debris present? How is the child's hygiene in general?
- Are there other lesions or ulcerations present?

After the screening, physicians should discuss the importance of finding a primary dentist or dental home with the parent or guardian – for both at-risk and healthy children. A dental home can offer early and periodic intervention, as well as risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, and regular supervision.

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## Important information for health care professionals and facilities

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Applying a fluoride varnish is another helpful approach. An effective weapon in preventing decay, fluoride can be used as a non-surgical approach to treating disease by re-mineralizing the enamel. Applying varnish is both quick and easy — it can be painted on in a couple of minutes, and is reimbursable under Missouri Medicaid.

Finally, physicians and their staff can help educate their patients and patient caregivers on the importance of good dental health in early childhood. For additional information, please contact your Provider Advocate or the Clinical Practice Consultant assigned to your practice.

### Meet United Healthcare Community Plan of Missouri's new Chief Medical Officer: Ravi Johar, M.D.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Missouri has a new Chief Medical Officer: Ravi Johar, M.D., a board-certified Obstetrician-Gynecologist from St. Louis. An active physician and patient advocate, Dr. Johar has practiced medicine in the St. Louis and St. Charles area for almost 25 years.

The Immediate Past President of the Missouri State Medical Association, Dr. Johar has also served as Council Chairman and currently chairs the Legislative Committee. He is a former President of the St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society and is the chair of the Nominating Committee for SLMMS. He's also chaired the Physician's and Patient's Grievance Committees.

He is currently the Vice-Chair of the Missouri Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and was recently selected as a Cefalo Fellow by National ACOG. Dr. Johar has served on the Physicians Advisory Committees for both UnitedHealthcare and Blue Cross/Blue Shield Anthem. He's also served on the board of Primaris, the former Missouri-wide Quality Improvement Organization.

Dr. Johar looks forward to working with care providers and the State of Missouri to provide the best possible health care experience for care providers and members.

### New Missouri Provider Enrollment Requirement

The state of Missouri announced a new requirement for all care providers who have a contract with any managed Medicaid plans: they must enroll with MO HealthNet by Jan. 1, 2018. If you are contracted with a Missouri Managed Care Plan and are **not** accepting Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid, you will need to enroll with MO HealthNet. However, if you are currently enrolled in FFS Medicaid, you're already enrolled with the state and don't need to take action.

For more information about this change, please contact your Provider Advocate.



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Practice Matters is a quarterly publication for physicians and other health care professionals and facilities in the UnitedHealthcare network.



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