



More than Dentistry. Life.

*A Charitable Affiliate of the
American Dental Association*

1800 15th Street Suite 100
Denver, Colorado 80202
Phone: 303.534.5360
Fax: 303.534.5290
www.DentalLifeline.org
www.DentaCheques.org

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Donated Dental Services (DDS)

advancing the health and wellbeing
of medically and functionally challenged individuals
by providing comprehensive pro bono dental care
through a network of volunteer dentists and laboratories.

Request for public / private collaboration

An investment of \$52,000 by the State of Utah to mobilize an estimated 200 volunteer dentists and 35 laboratories will annually return up to \$425,000 in comprehensive pro bono therapies for approximately 130 individuals.

(Many individuals will be treated by one or more specialists in addition to a general practitioner, accounting for more volunteers than annually completed cases).

Serving people with:

- developmental disabilities,
- serious and persistent mental illnesses,
- functional limitations related to advanced age,
- physical and/or sensory impairments, and
- financial hardship from cancers, cardiovascular diseases, autoimmune disorders, uncontrolled diabetes, orthopedic diseases, kidney failure, and/or conditions requiring organ transplantation.

Some are veterans unable to obtain dental care through the VA.

Providing comprehensive medically-essential treatment

Volunteer dentists donate their services, including the use of their offices and supplies. General practitioners, specialists, and laboratories participate so patients receive comprehensive and sustainable care rather than limited treatment. Implants, gold casting alloys and other specialized materials are donated by manufacturers as needed.

The importance of the pro bono dental care in the medical management of many diseases, and thereby the prevention of costly complications, has been affirmed by 18 national medical organizations (attached).

Staffed by 0.6 FTE social work coordinator (24 hours/week)

Coordinators are responsible for distributing materials about DDS to individuals requesting assistance, determining general eligibility of applicants, arranging referrals to volunteers, involving laboratories as needed, and assuring that the needs of patients and volunteers are resolved throughout the course of treatment.

Established record of service

More than 100,000 individuals throughout the country have received in excess of \$300 million of comprehensive treatment from 15,200 dentists and 3,300 laboratories. Dental Lifeline Network, a charitable affiliate of the American Dental Association, began DDS as a small pilot in the late '80's. Most activity is concentrated in 42 state-specific programs, most of which are fully or significantly supported by state governments. Utah is one of the states currently without a state-specific DDS program.

DDS is endorsed by the Utah Dental Association, the American Dental Association, and many other national dental organizations (listed on reverse side).

Helping People With Disabilities or Who Are Elderly or Medically Fragile

Itemized annual costs of \$52,000 for Donated Dental Services (DDS) program in Utah
to generate \$425,000 in pro bono dental care
for an estimated 130 individuals,
an \$8 : \$1 return.

Salary, 24 hour / week social work coordinator	\$21,000
Technical and administrative support services	15,000
Telephone	2,900
Travel and meetings – coordinator	2,500
Printing and copying	2,200
Payroll taxes	2,000
Postage and shipping	1,200
Payroll benefits	1,100
Insurance – liability	800
Office – supplies	800
Laboratory reimbursements	750
Office – equipment purchases	650
Volunteer recognition	500
Auditing services	400
Incidental	<u>200</u>
	\$52,000

Medically-Essential Dental Care

American College of Physicians

Dental problems, particularly dental infections, pose a major problem for patients with cardiac valvular disease, patients who are immunosuppressed by virtue of underlying disease or immunosuppressive medications, patients with various types of prostheses, and patients who are at risk of aspiration. The implications of dental disease in such patients extend well beyond their oral disease, with potentially life-threatening complications if the dental problems are not treated.



American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

Any patient undergoing an arthroplasty of the hip and knee is at risk for infection. These risks are significantly increased in patients with dental disease or poor oral hygiene. Best practices for our surgeons include a dental evaluation in patients at risk prior to arthroplasty. This is particularly important in the poor and disenfranchised. A dental infection is also disastrous in the post operative patients. Appropriate and prompt evaluation of any oral infections is critical in patients right after surgery as well.



Renal Physicians Association

Forum of End Stage Renal Disease Networks

...diabetes and hypertension are among the most prevalent precursor conditions to patients with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), and thus it is critically important for patients with ESRD to maintain a proper diet and nutrition regimen. However, poor dental health can often compromise the ability of ESRD patients to achieve good medical outcomes due to its impact on serum albumin levels and glucose control. These issues are particularly important in ESRD care as dialysis patients are a highly vulnerable patient population with morbidity and mortality rates that typically are much higher than those in other chronic illness populations.



Society for Vascular Surgery

Poor dental hygiene and substandard dental care places vascular patients, especially those who have arterial stents, stent grafts, or grafts, at risk for transient bacteremia which can seed these arterial implants. Infection of an arterial stent or graft almost always requires excision of the arterial implant. Operations to remove these stents or grafts are major operations associated with significant morbidity, including amputation of a limb, and death. The Donated Dental Services (DDS) program can help with this problem through their volunteer services. We encourage all vascular patients, but especially those who have had or intend to have arterial stents or grafts placed, to undergo appropriate dental care to avoid these potentially devastating vascular complications.



American College of Cardiology

The data linking dental infections to increased risk of cardiovascular disease is clear. The Donated Dental Services (DDS) program serves as a great resource, providing cardiologists with a charitable service for their patients who are at risk of severe dental infections which could compromise cardiac conditions.



Association of Oncology Social Work

For immune compromised cancer patients, the concomitant risks associated with untreated dental conditions can include life threatening septicemia along with the potential for other very costly medical conditions. Dental treatment must precede many life-saving chemotherapeutic cancer interventions and Donated Dental Services is one of the very few resources available for our indigent patients.



American Diabetes Association

People with diabetes are more likely to have periodontal disease and its complications. Additionally, untreated periodontal disease makes it more difficult to control blood glucose and is associated with increased risk of diabetes complications, including kidney failure and cardiovascular disease. People with diabetes are more likely to need medical procedures such as cardiac surgery or kidney transplantation, and these needed procedures may have to be delayed due to untreated dental problems.



American Society of Clinical Oncology

Untreated dental disease in patients about to undergo chemotherapy regimens that carry the risk of hematologic toxicity, especially leucopenia, may be a cause of fatal sepsis. Bisphosphonates are commonly used in the setting of metastatic lung, breast, prostate and colon cancers and their use is stand care for those with multiple myeloma. Patients with hypercalcemia of malignancy also may receive bisphosphonates. Osteonecrosis of the jaw is a known possible complication of bisphosphonate therapy in patients with cancer. Expert consensus panels have recommended dental assessment prior to the use of intravenous bisphosphonates. Oral complications are universal in patients receiving radiotherapy to the head and neck. In addition to the specific circumstances outlined above, patients with cancer often are unable to maintain adequate nutritional intake. This is due to many factors, and can be disease or treatment related. Careful dental care can be an important component in avoidance of nutritional compromise.



American College of Emergency Physicians

There are over 124 million visits to our nation's emergency departments annually. Of those patients that present with non-traumatic dental emergencies, 96% of those visits are a result of caries (decay) and abscesses. Many of those patients come to the emergency department because they cannot afford dental care through a primary dentist or do not have access to a dental care provider.



American College of Rheumatology

Many of our patients take medications that suppress their immune systems to control their rheumatologic disease. The combination of the secondary health issues along with potential side effects from the medication increase the likelihood of dental problems. It is vital for patients to receive appropriate dental evaluation and prompt treatment so they can continue their immune suppressant medications.

American Society of Transplant Surgeons Society for Transplant Social Workers



...a lot of patients who have dental problems that must be addressed before they can be transplanted. Untreated dental problems can become deadly once a patient is immunosuppressed, so good dental care is a critical part of preparation for transplant.



American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

... the connection between uncontrolled diabetes and serious periodontal disease has been well documented. Further, untreated periodontal disease makes it more difficult to control diabetes, leading to the dreaded diabetic microvascular and macrovascular complications. Chronic periodontitis has been associated with increased incidence of cardiovascular events, the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States. ...our members also appreciate the value of specialized approach to those patients with generalized osteoporosis.



American Nurses Association

As the only full-service professional organization representing the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses, ANA's membership is very diverse and we believe the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program provides a service that is critical for many of our patients. ...dental disease can quickly develop life-threatening complications if the dental problems are not treated. Without the services DDS provides these patients would often go untreated, suffering both local and systemic complications of their oral disease.



American College of Gastroenterology

Urgent dental care is sometimes necessary before patients can undergo treatment for various gastrointestinal diseases, including inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV). It is important for patients with these chronic diseases to receive dental care and avoid any delay in treatment.



American Psychiatric Association

Dental care needs among individuals with severe and persistent mental illness are significant. Many of these patients have neglected their dental health for extended periods of time. In addition, many are treated long term with psychotropic medications that may reduce resistance to infection. Without appropriate dental care, these individuals are at increased risk for septicemias, endocarditis and other potentially threatening conditions. Further, untreated dental problems may add to psychiatric disability by resulting in chronic gingivitis, tooth loss, persistent halitosis, and other socially damaging and disqualifying clinical features that further contribute to symptoms such as depression and anxiety. Despite clear medical need, patients with severe and persistent mental illness often lack financial access to dental care. Medicare statutorily excludes any dental benefits, even when medically necessary, and most state Medicaid plans offer sparse if any dental coverage for adult recipients. The VA will only provide dental care if the pathology is a service related condition.



American Thoracic Society

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) is a 501(c)3 organization of more than 15,000 physicians, research scientists, nurses, and other allied healthcare professionals whose mission is to improve health worldwide by advancing research, clinical care, and public health in respiratory disease, critical illness and sleep disorders. Dental and health are interrelated. Bacterial biofilms between teeth harbor pathogens that, when aspirated, can increase susceptibility or complicate the management of pulmonary diseases such as pneumonia, bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The risk is greater in immune-compromised individuals. We applaud the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program as it provides a national network to integrate volunteer care for patients in dental need.