

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

We are pleased that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken a first step in clarifying medical coverage of medically necessary dental treatment under Medicare, consistent with the authority provided by Section 1862(a)(12) of the Social Security Act. As you have recognized, overall health is inextricably linked to oral health. And yet, dental care has long been inaccessible to millions of Medicare beneficiaries, including low-income Medicare beneficiaries and in communities of color, leading to an alarming situation in which two-thirds of Americans over age 65 have periodontal disease and one-fifth have lost all of their teeth. Untreated oral conditions have also increased Medicare beneficiaries' risk of suffering chronic conditions such as diabetes, autoimmune disease, kidney disease, heart disease, and numerous forms of cancer, with the result being an increase in overall Medicare program costs.

Fortunately, the Physician Fee Schedule for 2023 took an important step forward by clarifying medical coverage for certain medically necessary dental treatment services and establishing an annual process for stakeholders to propose additional clinical scenarios for coverage. Beginning this year, the Medicare program is providing medical coverage for dental treatment that is necessary to the successful performance of organ transplant surgery, cardiac valve replacement, valvuloplasty procedures, and head and neck cancers. In addition, this year marks the first time stakeholders may offer for CMS' consideration clinical evidence demonstrating other circumstances in which dental treatment may be inextricably linked and substantially related and integral to the clinical success of additional medical services covered by the Medicare program.

We are pleased that leading stakeholders in America's medical, dental, and patient communities have utilized CMS' nominations process to propose medical coverage for additional medically necessary services. Specifically, we understand nominations have been submitted for the following:

- Medical coverage of medically necessary dental treatment for beneficiaries diagnosed with diabetes mellitus, based on clinical evidence that non-surgical periodontal and preventive disease treatment is documented as achieving clinically significant reduction of blood sugar levels and, therefore, improves health outcomes and substantially reduces healthcare costs;
- Medical coverage of medically necessary dental treatment for beneficiaries diagnosed with blood and solid tumor cancers, due to the documented association of

such cancers, cancer treatment, and immunosuppression with oral health-related complications during chemotherapy and radiation adjuvant therapies; and

- Medical coverage of medically necessary dental treatment for beneficiaries diagnosed with systemic autoimmune disease complications, which increase the risk of advanced dental decay, tooth loss, and gum disease, and to treat periodontitis, which is clinically linked to the development of rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases.

We strongly encourage you to extend Medicare coverage for these conditions to continue progress in improving the health of Medicare beneficiaries. Further, CMS should also extend medically necessary dental coverage for additional conditions previously identified, including heart disease, stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, gastrointestinal disease, rheumatologic disease, infected prosthesis, and chronic disease management.

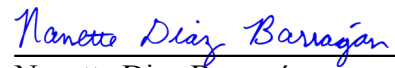
We look forward to continuing to work with CMS to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries receive the treatment they need.

Sincerely,



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



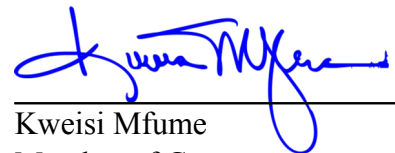
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Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



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Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



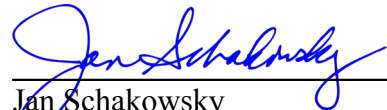
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C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



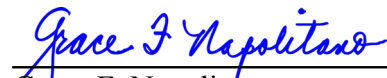
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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



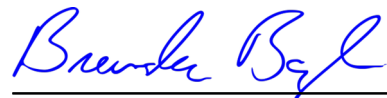
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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



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Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



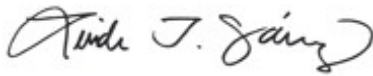
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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



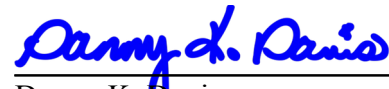
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



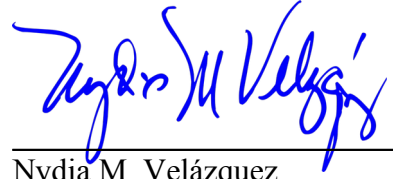
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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
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Jamie Raskin  
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
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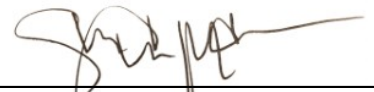
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



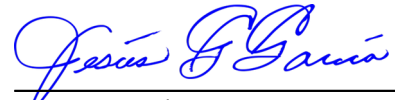
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



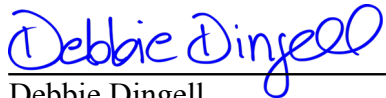
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



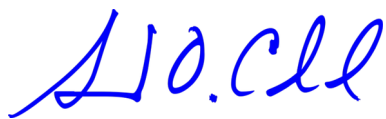
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Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

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Member of Congress

*Joaquin Castro*

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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

*Judy Chu*

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Member of Congress

*Yvette W. Clarke*

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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

*Emanuel Cleaver*

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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

*Mark DeSaulnier*

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Member of Congress

*Veronica Escobar*

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Member of Congress

*Teresa Leger Fernández*

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Member of Congress

*Bill Foster*

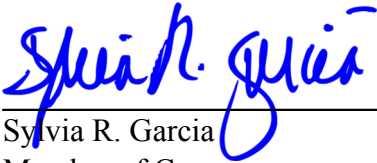
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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

*John Garamendi*

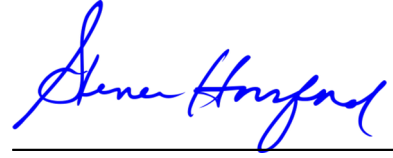
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



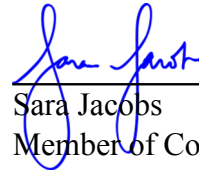
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Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



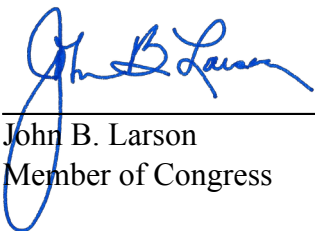
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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress





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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
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Gwen S. Moore  
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress



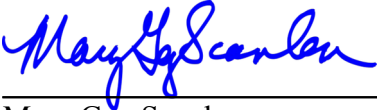
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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David Scott  
Member of Congress



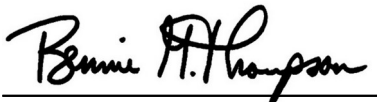
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



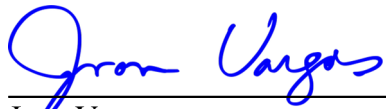
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



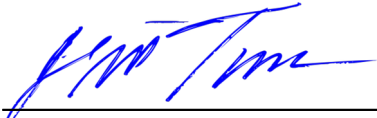
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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



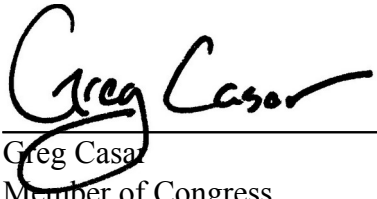
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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



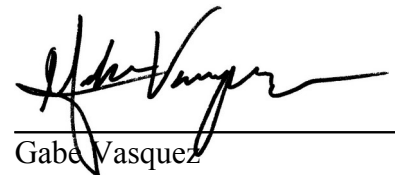
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Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



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Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



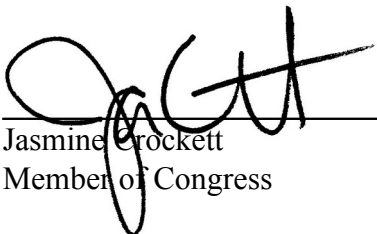
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



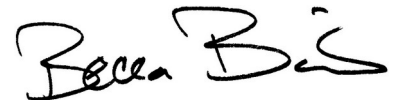
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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



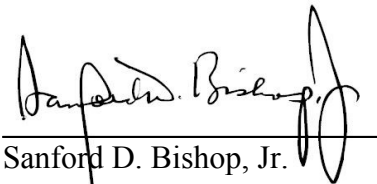
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Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



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Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



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JM Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



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Gregorio Kilili Camacho  
Sablan  
Member of Congress



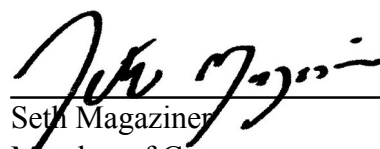
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress