

Recently, there have been some unfortunate changes made to the reimbursement levels for Participating Dentists that are members of Washington Dental Service. As a PPO dentist with WDS, we **must** take a minimum 20-30% cut in reimbursement fees for services we provide our patients. The changes in fee reimbursements are forcing dentists across the state to make significant changes in the way they practice dentistry to compensate for the fee reduction. For almost 30 years as a dentist, I have never allowed any outside source, especially an insurance company, influence how I practice dentistry and I am not going to allow that now.

As a result, I have elected to only drop the PPO portion of WDS effective 29 August 2011. We will **continue** to be a **member dentist** with WDS but can no longer support the restraints placed on us at the PPO level. While our fees are the fees WDS uses to determine benefits, WDS will consider our fees at the member dentist level only. What this means to you as a subscriber with WDS, is that your out of pocket expenses may increase. The amount of the increase depends on the type of procedure performed. For example, the difference between our fee and the contract fee for periodontal maintenance is approximately \$28.00. We will continue to do our best to inform you of the difference in out of pocket fees in advance of treatment.

We regret any inconvenience our decision may place on you. We felt it was more important to continue to offer the one on one quality care our patients (and referring dentists) have come to rely on than to continue in the PPO plan and have to offer less than our best to cover the cost of the reduced contract fees. If you have additional questions regarding how this change will affect you, please contact your insurance plan administrator or WDS directly.

Sincerely,

Drs. Anderegg, Thomas & Staff