



What is Third-Party Revenue?

by Judy Muschamp, Health Director

In the past few months, I have kept Tribal members informed of plans to replace the Tribal health clinic facility. If you have read those articles, you know that \$3,395,611 of third-party revenue is being committed to the construction project. But what is third-party revenue?

Even though you, as Tribal members, receive health care services at the clinic at no cost, the clinic tracks services that are provided, sets fees based on usual and customary rates in the local area and bills private insurance or other sources for those services.

Other sources of health care coverage include workman's compensation for on-the-job injuries, Medicare for elders or permanently disabled, or Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) for income-eligible citizens. Third-party resources also are collected for services provided to non-Indian community members who receive medical care in our facility. All collections are deposited into a special clinic fund.

We rely on third-party income to help pay the cost of providing services, improve or repair our facility or replace aged equipment. Unspent third-party resources are maintained in special interest-earning accounts or invested to earn the greatest amount of return.

That is why it's important that patients inform the clinic if you have any change in coverage whenever you access clinical services. And if no coverage is listed, staff may ask you to be screened for coverage.

We make wise use of all resources we collect and the new facility will enable our provider to increase efficiency, resulting in increased third-party revenue.

Silver Star Construction and Anderson Shirley Architects continue to work on the new plans and it's looking great.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact either Tracy Bailey at 541-444-8278 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1278; or me at 541-444-9655 or 800-648-0449, ext. 1655.

Women's Pap-a-thon Open to Community

Event features food, facials, massages (and yes, exams)

All women in the community are invited to participate in the Siletz Community Health Clinic Pap-a-thon on Feb. 10 from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

All women in need of a pap, breast exam, blood sugar check and breast self-exam teaching for free are encouraged to call and make an appointment at 541-444-1030 or 800-648-0449.

It's an afternoon devoted to women only in the clinic, with food, facials, paps, nails, blood sugar checks, breast exams, massages, gifts and more.

If you need help with transportation, please call Sharon Masson at 541-444-9609 or 800-648-0449, ext. 1609. If you need help with child care to be able to come, call Lin Rasar at 541-444-9627 or 800-648-0449, ext. 1627.

Watch for posters with added services on that day.



Get Ready for Annual SVS-CTSI Sealant Clinic

by Mary Ellen Volansky, RDH, MS

Fish don't have problems with their teeth that I know of. Maybe that is because fluoride is present in all oceans of the world. Still, I suspect that fish want all the protection they can get from holes growing in their teeth. So I am willing to bet they would have dental sealant applied to their teeth for added protection.

This leads me to a very closely related topic, the Annual Siletz Valley School (SVS)-CTSI Sealant Clinic on Feb. 25-26, 2009.

This free clinic is open to all SVS children in grades 1-12. Each child will be seen at the Siletz Dental Clinic for the following services: dental screening, sealant, home care instructions and supplies, and fluoride varnish.

If your child or children attend SVS, you were offered the opportunity to sign a consent form when you registered for classes last summer. If you completed this form, then you are done. If you did not sign the CTSI form, drop by SVS before Feb. 13 to complete it. If you have questions, please call Lourdes Jackson at 541-444-1100.



Free Dental Exams for Young Children

Who: Tribal and non-Tribal children ages 0-3

What: Free dental exam

When: Feb. 23-24, 2009 (time of day varies)

Where: Siletz Community Health Clinic

Why: To screen for cavities with the assistance of pediatric professionals who will be on hand to train the Siletz Dental Clinic on new methods. Referrals will be given since no follow-up care is possible at this time for non-Tribal members.

How: Call 541-444-9605 or 800-648-0449, ext. 1605, and leave a message and a Dental staff member will call you back to schedule your child.

Toothtalk

by Mary Ellen Volansky, RDH, MS

Dental Clinic Receives IHS Prevention Grant

Recently, Dental Clinic staff applied for a grant from Indian Health Services. On Jan. 6, we received notification that the Tribe was being awarded \$10,000!

This money is provided for the continuation and expansion of the SVS-CTSI Sealant Clinic and other prevention-focused programs for the children in our community. Children in Siletz Tribal Head Start, the Tenas Illahee Childcare Center and the CTSI/SVS Sealant Clinic will benefit from this money.

The Sealant Clinic will take place Feb. 25-26 for children in grades 1-12. This year we will include temporary fillings for teeth with holes, or large cavities, in them. A temporary filling is like a patch, temporarily used until the child can see his or her own dentist.

Dental sealants are used to prevent cavities or holes from growing in our teeth. In children ages 5-17, 84 percent of their cavities/holes are found on the biting surface of their teeth.¹ These biting surfaces are the first of our teeth to get cavities.

What about fluoride? Fluoride works best to prevent smooth surface cavities. Smooth surfaces of our teeth are those that our lips and tongue rest against. Fluoride cannot work its way into the deep pits and grooves of our back teeth. We need both prevention tools to help our teeth stay healthy.

Why are biting surfaces such easy targets for decay? Our teeth begin to form in our jaw as buds of tissue. Those buds come together and harden, forming the peaks/cusps and valleys/pits/grooves of our molars and premolars.

Picture this: Take the fingers of one hand and bring them all together, sides of all fingers touching each other. Look down on to your fingertips. Do you see the pits and grooves your fingertips form where they touch each other?

To our eyes, the pits and grooves of our teeth look like they come together perfectly, closing all gaps. Under a microscope, though, these pits and grooves are

huge gaps, spaces more than big enough for bacteria to live in, protected from your efforts at brushing and flossing. While we brush and floss away, the bacteria easily eat the foods we put into our mouth, making holes we can see and sometimes feel.

Dental sealants cover over those gaps, sometimes sealing in the bacteria or even sealing in a small cavity. Since no food can get to the bacteria, the bacteria die and our teeth live long healthy lives.

Everyone – adults and children – should have sealants placed on their teeth as soon as a molar or premolar erupts into their mouth. If you are an adult and have back teeth that do not have fillings, you could be eligible for sealants. I had my few remaining cavity-free teeth sealed about 10 years ago. As most of you know, I was not a kid. (Well, hopefully in my heart.)

Most dental providers place sealants on baby teeth as well. Remember that baby teeth, especially molars, need to last for 8-10 years. The children in the Siletz Head Start programs and at the child care center have an opportunity for placement

of sealants on their teeth each fall. We also provide this service in the Dental Clinic.

Sealants are not new. They have been around since the 1960s. Still, many people do not know about sealants, "fewer than 25 percent of children in the United States have sealants on their teeth."² Hopefully, this grant award will help the children of our community increase that number.

Contact Lourdes Jackson at SVS if you want your child to participate in this free sealant clinic. A consent form/health history needs to be filled out. You can contact her at 541-444-1100.

If you have questions, I can be reached at Toothtalk@ctsi.nsn.us or at 541-444-1030. Please leave a message and I'll get back to you.

1 www.usc.edu/hsc/dental/rest/OPER521a/sld004.htm.

2 Seal Out Tooth Decay, a Booklet For Parents, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, NIH Publication No. 05-489, reprinted January 2005, p. 6.