### Indicator C.7. Prevention: Sealant Receipt on Permanent 2nd Molars

**Description:** Percentage of enrolled children who have ever received sealants on permanent second molar teeth: (1) at least one sealant and (2) all four molars sealed by the 15th birthdate. This indicator is a Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) measure.

**What data source is used?** Administrative enrollment and claims data are used to calculate this indicator. This indicator can be applied to both public program and commercial (private payer) administrative claims. This indicator is recommended for states to report for their pediatric Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries. Reporting on this indicator may also be possible for children with dental benefits through state health insurance exchanges or children represented in all-payer claims databases.

**Who is the target population?** Children who have their 15th birthdate during the reporting year and are enrolled in a program (e.g., Medicaid/CHIP) or a dental plan.

**How is the indicator measured?** The indicator reports two percentages based on the same denominator \(\frac{\text{numerator}}{\text{denominator}} \times 100\%\):  

- **Numerator 1:** The subset of children in the denominator who ever received at least one sealant on a permanent second molar tooth  
- **Numerator 2:** The subset of children in the denominator who ever received sealants on all four permanent second molar teeth

**Denominator:** Number of children with their 15th birthdate in the reporting year

**Are any children excluded?** Children who have received treatment (restorations, extractions, endodontic, prosthodontic, and other dental treatments) on all four permanent second molars prior to the 15th birthdate should be excluded. Children who do not qualify for dental benefits should also be excluded.

**What does this indicator measure and why is it important?** This indicator is a process measure of whether children are receiving evidence-based care. Dental caries is the most common chronic disease in children in the United States. In 2015–2016, 45.8% of youth ages 2–19 had dental caries (both treated and untreated), and 13% had untreated caries. Identifying caries early is important to reverse the disease process, prevent progression of caries, and reduce the likelihood of future caries. Evidence-based guidelines recommend that sealants be placed on the pits and fissures of permanent molars as effective prevention to reduce dental caries.

**Are there any limitations to this indicator?** Claims data cannot identify teeth with active decay, sealants not billed to the program/plan, or treatment (e.g., restorations/extractions) not billed to the program/plan, which will impact the precision of the denominator and the numerator.

**Where can I get more information about Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) measures?**  
- The technical specifications for this indicator are available from DQA.  
- All DQA measures and user guides are available online.

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