**Objective:** The purpose of this poster is to investigate the health insurance systems of other countries and perform a comparative analysis of the respective health insurance systems in the United States. This analysis and comparison were conducted to understand how to effectively deliver dental care services to special care patients in need. The countries being reviewed are the following: Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Adopting and applying effective dental care systems could help encourage and support dentists in treating more special needs patients in their offices. **Methods:** A search was conducted to identify healthcare systems in Canada, Japan, the UK, and the US. Many peer-reviewed articles and governmental websites were analyzed and utilized in an observational comparative analysis. **Results:** There were differences between private and public insurance available for special care patients in the countries studied. Furthermore, we found different reimbursements for behavior management along with access to treatment options, such as sedation, anesthesia, and in-home care depending on the insurance. There were various benefits and disadvantages for each health system studied and for both the patient and provider.

**Figure 1** Patients that may require special care dentistry in the populations of interest.

**Figure 2** Types of insurance used by populations in the countries of interest.

**Introduction**

Oral health care for special needs and developmentally disabled populations has been an under-discussed topic in the medical field. This vulnerable population, and their families, have all too often found themselves in situations of little support, and barriers to access to health care that accommodates their needs. The purpose of this poster is to investigate the health insurance systems and associated coverages and reimbursements in other countries to further apply this data to a comparative analysis of the respective health insurance system in the United States. This would aid in understanding the best avenues to deliver dental care services to special care patients in need. The countries being reviewed are as follows: Canada; Japan; the United Kingdom; and the United States. Adopting and applying effective dental care systems could help to encourage and support local dentists to consider treating more special needs patients in their practices.

**Japan**
- Home visits are paid for by the government based on the number of patients seen in a building. Mobile dental services have been covered by the universal health insurance system since 1988 for patients with disabilities or those who cannot visit dental clinics.
- There are additional reimbursements for treating patients with cerebral palsy, IDD individuals, and disability hindering treatment at outpatient setting and which requires additional help.
- There is also reimbursement for behavior management techniques such as tell-show-do, modelling, TEACCH technique, and positive reinforcement.

**Canada**
- Dental Benefits for Special Care Patients:
  - Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
  - Dental Special Care Plan (DSCP)
- The Mandatory Basic Dental Care Plan covers ODSP recipients and their adult spouses as well as children 17 years of age or younger
- DSCP is intended to go with the Mandatory Basic Dental Care Plan for ODSP recipients whose disability, prescribed medication or year prescribed medical treatment directly impacts their oral health
- Allows for IV OR inhaled sedation, if performed on the same day as services

**The United Kingdom**
- National Health Service (NHS), a state-run medical service
- NHS subscribers pay a certain amount, based on a tiered system and must be seen in an NHS affiliated center
- Some patients get care at no cost: Under 18, Pregnant Women, Full-Time Students
- Special Needs Patients are covered based on their income

**United States**
- Dental providers may request special approval for a service that is not covered by Medicaid or that falls outside the limitations stated in this policy if that service is deemed medically necessary for a Medicaid beneficiary under age 21
- Medicaid covers dental treatment requiring general anesthesia for any reason
- Dental reimbursement is between 44-62% for Medicaid and up to 100% for CHIP.

**Methods**
- A search was conducted to identify different health care systems, and their inclusions, in Canada; Japan; the United Kingdom; and the United States.
- Peer reviewed articles and governmental websites were analyzed and used for investigation and information cultivation.
- An observational comparative analysis was performed to compare similarities and differences in the oral health care coverage for special care patients in the above countries.

**Discussion**

Four countries and their respective insurance options for patients who may need special care dentistry were reviewed. Canada, Japan, and the United Kingdom each have a form of universal health care that is provided to all of its citizens. In Japan, health care is mandatory, and plans are dispensed on an income, age, and residency basis. In North Carolina, and the rest the US, Medicaid or CHIP are insurance options given on an application basis depending on income or disability. Canada has public insurance that does not cover special care. Special care patients are insured under ODSP and/or DSCP. The United Kingdom is the only country that does not provide free care to patients that need special care. Only children, pregnant women, and full-time students are exempt from paying premiums or co-pays. In England and Wales, courses of treatment are paid based on “bands,” i.e. bands 1-3 or emergency. In Northern Ireland, all dental care is free for patients with special needs of all ages. Behavioral management options are available and paid for in Canada, Japan, and North Carolina, with stipulations. Japan has the lowest per capita amount of special care patients but has the most accessibility for those patients. North Carolina has the highest per capita number of patients who may require special care, but many of these patients have private insurance that require premiums and co-payments. Each country has private insurance based on income, which is often used to supplement the public insurance.

**References**

6. NC Medicaid Division of Health Benefits. Dental Fee Schedules Archive | NC Medicaid.