

Jeremy Abbott, DDS

Private Practice Bethesda, Maryland

Clinical Instructor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery,
University of Maryland School of Dentistry

Private Practice overview

- 2 post-graduate trained providers
- Practice limited to orofacial pain and dental sleep medicine
- In-network provider for medical insurance and Medicare

Challenges in private practice

- When referred by a dentist, TMD patients often enter the practice with a dental treatment proposed or attempted.
- When referred by a physician or mid-level provider, “TMJ” is often the diagnosis given.
- Patient often question why their plan has excluded TMD for treatment.

Challenges in Reimbursement

- TMD does not fit the dental practice model
- Medical insurance companies and Medicare do not always recognize that there are trained orofacial pain providers
- A significant amount of insurance plans exclude TMD
- Results: Trained providers often opt out of insurance and Medicare

Suggestions for improving reimbursement

- Educate the public that there are providers that have completed university evidence based care training programs
- Educate medical insurance companies and Medicare that providers utilizing evidence based care can be cost effective and successful in treating TMD