

111765/3082

BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Report To The Congress

OF THE UNITED STATES

Increased Use Of Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries Would Benefit Consumers, Dentists, And Taxpayers

Extensive research and experience show that employing expanded function dental auxiliaries under dentists' supervision to complete restorations (fill teeth) after the cavity has been prepared by the dentist is one way of increasing the efficiency of the Nation's dental care delivery system and providing needed services to more people at less cost. Nevertheless, most States have laws precluding dentists from employing such persons for this purpose.

Moreover, the Office of Management and Budget has not established an overall policy requiring or promoting their use to the extent possible in dental care delivery programs operated or funded by the Federal Government.

GAO is making recommendations (1) to effect changes in State laws to permit the use of these auxiliaries to complete restorations by private dentists and public health departments that desire to do so and (2) to establish policies to increase their employment in federally operated or funded dental care delivery programs to the extent possible.



111765



HRD-80-51
MARCH 7, 1980