Modified Policy for General Anesthesia and Intravenous Sedation

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has developed consistent criteria and guidelines for Intravenous conscious sedation/analgesia (procedures D9241/D9242) and Deep sedation/general anesthesia (procedures D9220/D9221) that will be implemented across all delivery systems and programs. Effective 30 days after publication, providers will be required to submit Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) for the provision of IV sedation and general anesthesia services. Submission and criteria requirements outlined in the Manual of Criteria (MOC) will not be updated until the implementation of CDT 15 occurs. However, providers are required to abide by the updated requirements outlined in this provider bulletin.

IV Sedation and General Anesthesia Guidelines for Dental Procedures

Patient selection for conducting dental procedures under IV sedation or general anesthesia utilizes medical history, physical status, and indications for anesthetic management. The dental provider in consultation with an anesthesiologist is responsible for determining whether a Medi-Cal beneficiary meets the minimum criteria necessary for receiving IV sedation or general anesthesia. The dental provider must submit a TAR prior to delivering IV sedation or general anesthesia. However, a TAR is not required prior to delivering IV sedation or general anesthesia as part of an outpatient dental procedure in a state certified skilled nursing facility (SNF) or any category of intermediate care facility (ICF) for the developmentally disabled. Additionally, the dental provider must meet the requirements for chart documentation, which includes a copy of a complete history and physical examination, diagnosis, treatment plan, radiological reports, the indication for IV sedation or general anesthesia and documentation of perioperative care (preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative care) for the dental procedure.

Criteria Indications for IV Sedation or General Anesthesia

Behavior modification and local anesthesia shall be attempted first. If this fails or is not possible, then sedation shall be considered.

If the provider documents both number 1 and number 2 below, then the patient shall be considered for IV sedation or general anesthetic.

1. Failure of local anesthesia to control pain.
2. Failure of conscious sedation, either inhalation or oral.

If the provider documents any one of numbers 3 through 6 then the patient shall be considered for IV sedation or general anesthetic.

3. Failure of effective communicative techniques and the inability for immobilization (patient may be dangerous to self or staff).
4. Patient requires extensive dental restorative or surgical treatment that cannot be rendered under local anesthesia or conscious sedation.
5. Patient has acute situational anxiety due to immature cognitive functioning.
6. Patient is uncooperative due to certain physical or mental compromising conditions.

If sedation is indicated then the least profound procedure shall be attempted first. The procedures are ranked from low to high profundity in the following order: conscious sedation via inhalation or oral anesthetics, IV sedation, then general anesthesia.

Patients with certain medical conditions such as but not limited to: moderate to severe asthma, reactive airway disease, congestive heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias and significant bleeding disorders (continuous Coumadin therapy) should be treated in a hospital setting or a licensed facility capable of responding to a serious medical crisis.

Providers shall adhere to all regulatory requirements (Federal, State, Licensing Board, etc.) for:

- Preoperative and perioperative care
- Monitoring and equipment requirements
- Emergencies and transfers
- Monitoring Guidelines

References:

- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) -- www.aapd.org
- American Dental Board of Anesthesiology -- www.adba.org
- American Dental Society of Anesthesiology -- www.adsahome.org
- American Society of Anesthesiologists – www.asahq.org
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists - www.aana.com/resources2/professionalpractice
- Dental Board of California – www.dbc.ca.gov/licensees/dds/permits_ga.shtml

Please continue to check the Denti-Cal website frequently for additional updates and program changes regarding the provision of IV sedation and general anesthesia services.

For more information please call the Denti-Cal Provider Service Line at 1-800-423-0507.