



MICHELLE BAASS
DIRECTOR

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DATE: October 18, 2021

TO: ALL MEDI-CAL DENTAL MANAGED CARE PLANS

SUBJECT: APL 21-004: CURRENT DENTAL TERMINOLOGY 21

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Dental All Plan Letter (APL) is for the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to inform Medi-Cal Dental Managed Care (DMC) Plans of its implementation of Current Dental Terminology (CDT) 21. Pursuant to Exhibit A, Attachment 12, of the DMC contract, Plans are responsible for providing or arranging all medically necessary dental covered services for members. Covered services are those services set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14132(h), Title 22 California Code of Regulations sections 51059, 51307, and 51003, and the Medi-Cal Dental Manual of Criteria (MOC) located in the Medi-Cal Dental Provider Handbook,¹ unless otherwise specifically excluded under the terms of the contract.

BACKGROUND:

DHCS implemented draft CDT-19 in two phases on March 14, 2020 and on May 16, 2020, which contained all procedure codes added from CDT-14 to CDT-19 and covers dates of service from the date of implementation through June 30, 2021. The draft CDT-20 MOC are effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2021, and the Plan is expected to enforce its use by all network providers. The DHCS implemented CDT-21 MOC² on October 1, 2021.

REQUIREMENTS:

The plan shall immediately:

1. Review, create, and implement systems updates to align with the draft CDT-21 MOC.
2. Distribute the draft CDT-21 MOC to network providers.
3. Update the Plan's provider manual and submit for DHCS review by November 30, 2021.

¹ Medi-Cal Dental Provider Handbook:

https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/Dental_Providers/Medi-Cal_Dental/Provider_Handbook/

² Draft CDT-21 MOC:

https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/MCD_documents/providers/MOC_CDT21_draft.pdf

The Plan must comply with Exhibit A, Attachment 10 (H), Practice Guidelines, Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations § 438.236³ which requires the Plan to publish a Provider Manual that is inclusive of reliable clinical evidence or a consensus of providers in the particular field, considers the needs of the Plan's members, are adopted, in consultation with contracting health care professionals, and reviewed and periodically updated, as appropriate.

The Plan and network providers may also access draft CDT-21 MOC information on the Medi-Cal Dental website⁴ and in the Dental Fee-for-Service Provider Bulletin, Volume 71, Number 19.⁵

If you have any questions regarding this APL, please send inquiries to dmcdeliverables@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Carolyn Brookins for:

Alani Jackson, MPA
Chief, Medi-Cal Dental Services Division
Department of Health Care Services

³ 42 CFR § 438.236:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-C/part-438>

⁴ Medi-Cal Dental Website:

https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/Dental_Providers/Medi-Cal_Dental/

⁵ Medi-Cal Dental Fee-For-Service Provider Bulletin:

https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/MCD_documents/providers/provider_bulletins/Volume_37_Number_19.pdf