

ATTACHMENT A

Policy for Intravenous Moderate Sedation and Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) developed consistent criteria and guidelines for intravenous (IV) moderate (conscious) sedation/analgesia (procedures D9239/D9243) and deep sedation/general anesthesia (procedures D9222/D9223) across all delivery systems and programs. Providers are required to submit Requests for Authorization (RA)/Prior Authorizations (PA)/Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) for the provision of IV moderate sedation and deep sedation/general anesthesia services. The provider who renders the IV moderate sedation and/or deep sedation/general anesthesia service is responsible for submitting the authorization request. Submission and criteria requirements are outlined in the Manual of Criteria (MOC), Section 5 of the [Medi-Cal Dental Provider Handbook](#). Providers are required to abide by any updated requirements outlined in the Medi-Cal Dental Provider Handbook and/or [Medi-Cal Dental Provider Bulletins](#).

Intravenous Moderate Sedation and Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia Guidelines for Dental Procedures

MCP Member selection for conducting dental procedures under IV moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia utilizes medical history, physical status, and indications for anesthetic management. DHCS expects that the dental provider will work collaboratively with an anesthesia provider to determine whether an MCP Member meets the minimum criteria necessary for receiving IV moderate sedation and/or deep sedation/general anesthesia. The need for moderate sedation and/or deep sedation/general anesthesia should be evaluated using the clinical judgement of the provider(s) based on the criteria indications delineated below. The anesthesia provider must submit documentation outlining the MCP Member's need for IV moderate sedation and/or deep sedation/general anesthesia based on such criteria indications through a RA/PA/TAR, and must receive approval prior to delivering the requested sedation or anesthesia services. Prior to anesthesia services being rendered, the provider must have a copy of a complete history and physical examination and the indication for IV moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia. Additionally, and not as a prerequisite to authorization, the provider must meet the requirements for chart documentation which, in addition to above, includes diagnosis, treatment plan, and documentation of perioperative care (preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative care) for the dental procedure pertinent to the request.

Please note a RA/PA/TAR is not required prior to delivering IV moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia as part of an outpatient dental procedure in a state

certified Skilled Nursing Facility or any category of Intermediate Care Facility for the developmentally disabled. Additionally, the dental provider must meet the requirements for chart documentation consistent with the MOC.

The need for a RA/PA/TAR may be waived when there is documentation of an emergency condition justifying the immediate need for the procedure. However, these claims will be subject to additional review.

Criteria Indications for IV Moderate Sedation or Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia

Behavior modification and local anesthesia must generally be attempted first, but may not be required in certain situations, depending on the medical needs of the MCP Member. Thereafter, minimal sedation must then be considered, or determined not feasible based on the medical needs of the MCP Member, and is not always required depending on the medical needs of the MCP Member.

If the provider provides clear medical record documentation of both number 1 and number 2 below, then the MCP Member must be considered for IV moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthetic.

1. Use of local anesthesia to control pain failed or was not feasible based on the medical needs of the MCP Member.
2. Use of minimal sedation, either inhalation or oral, failed or was not feasible based on the medical needs of the MCP Member.

If the provider documents any one of numbers 3 through 6 below, then the MCP Member must be considered for IV moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthetic.

3. Use of effective communicative techniques and the inability for immobilization (MCP Member may be dangerous to self or staff) failed or was not feasible based on the medical needs of the MCP Member.
4. MCP Member requires extensive dental restorative or surgical treatment that cannot be rendered under local anesthesia or minimal sedation.
5. MCP Member has acute situational anxiety due to immature cognitive functioning.
6. MCP Member is uncooperative due to certain physical or mental compromising conditions.

The procedures are ranked from low to high profundity in the following order: minimal sedation via inhalation or oral anesthetics, non-intravenous conscious sedation, IV moderate sedation, then deep sedation/general anesthesia.

MCP Members 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, uncontrolled seizures, and sleep disordered breathing, should be treated in a hospital setting or a licensed facility capable of responding to a serious medical crisis, as determined most appropriate by the provider.

Providers must 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 Anesthesiology: <https://www.aana.com>
- Dental Board of California: <https://www.dbc.ca.gov>
- National Network for Oral Health Access: www.nnoha.org/nnoha-content/uploads/2013/07/White-Paper-Health-Centers-and-Hospital-Based-Dentistry.pdf
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/about-cdsr>
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: <https://search.ahrq.gov/search?q=general+anesthesia>
- US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health NIH: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23152234
- DHCS Medi-Cal Dental Program: <https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/>
- DHCS Medi-Cal Dental Provider Handbook: https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/Dental_Providers/Medi-Cal_Dental/Provider_Handbook/
- DHCS Medi-Cal Dental Manual of Criteria and Schedule of Maximum Allowances: https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/Dental_Providers/Medi-Cal_Dental/MOC_SMA_Versions/
- DHCS Medi-Cal Dental Provider Bulletins: https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/Dental_Providers/Medi-Cal_Dental/Provider_Bulletins/

Please continue to check the Medi-Cal Dental website for additional updates and program changes regarding the provision of IV moderate sedation and deep sedation/general anesthesia services.

For more information, please call the Medi-Cal Dental Telephone Service Line at 1-800-423-0507.