



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1353

DATE: February 12, 2014

TO: All Iowa Medicaid Providers (Excluding Home and Community Based Services and Individual Consumer Directed Attendant Care)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Dental Wellness Plan

EFFECTIVE: May 1, 2014

In May 2013, the Iowa Legislature passed the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. The plan calls for comprehensive dental benefits equivalent to the Medicaid benefit. The IME is in the process of developing the new benefit, called the Dental Wellness Plan. The Dental Wellness Plan will utilize a new, commercial plan framework and offer dental benefits to the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan membership beginning on May 1, 2014.

The Dental Wellness Plan program goals are:

- **Access** - Ensure adequate access to high quality dental services across the state for the new Iowa Health and Wellness Plan adults, addressing current barriers.
- **Manage Population Health** – Focus on restoring basic functionality for all enrollees and improving the oral health of members over time through education, care coordination and community support.
- **Member Incentives** – Ensure there are incentives for members to engage in preventive services, reduce “no-shows” and enhance compliance with treatment plans by rewarding member involvement to drive better dental outcomes.
- **Provider Incentives** – Higher reimbursement rates, a pay-for-performance component and fewer administrative barriers in claims processing and other administrative transactions.
- **Sustainability** – Demonstrate a high quality and sustainable adult dental program that will provide a model that may be considered for the rest of Medicaid program.

This plan is designed to improve the member’s oral health by incentivizing preventive services and compliance with treatment plans while providing cost effective comprehensive coverage. As we move closer to the implementation date, details will be announced through informational letters. To view the draft proposal, please see the document entitled [Iowa Health and Wellness Plan Accountable Dental Care Plan](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/IHAWP%20dental%20plan%20DRAFT%2010%201%2013.pdf).¹

In the meantime, the IME recognizes the need to provide certain urgent and medically necessary services now. Until the new dental plan is available for coverage, **urgent dental**

¹ <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/IHAWP%20dental%20plan%20DRAFT%2010%201%2013.pdf>

services will be payable to any enrolled Medicaid dentist. Through April 30, 2014, all dental services for Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members require a Prior Authorization approved through Medical Prior Authorization via fax at: 515-725-0938 (Dental PA Fax). Services rendered should be handled consistent with existing Iowa Medicaid dental policies. Some examples of services not considered urgent are routine services, cleaning and preventive services, routine radiographs, restoration services, and repairs.

Service categories covered as urgent/stabilization treatment due to trauma, pain, or infection include:

- Extractions
- Tooth reimplantation
- Splint
- Palliative treatment
- Endodontic treatment
- Surgical incision and drainage
- Anesthesia
- Treatment of bone fractures
- Repair of traumatic wounds
- Restorations following endodontic treatment (to close tooth and stabilize until crown)
- Minor denture adjustments

All patients require an evaluation or assessment prior to the beginning of each service. A prior authorization is not required for the evaluation or assessment and supporting diagnostic services, but is required for the allowed follow up urgent care services listed above. The evaluation services and supporting diagnostic services below will be covered:

- D0140 (problem-focused exam)
- D0120 (periodic exam)
- D0150 (comprehensive exam)
- D0220 (Intraoral Periapical x-rays to assist with urgent dental diagnosis and treatment)
- D0230 (Intraoral Periapical-each additional radiographic image)
- D0330 (Panoramic x-rays to assist with urgent dental diagnosis and treatment)

Limited prior authorizations may be approved via phone in specific situations. If a patient is present in the office, with an immediate need that must be addressed during the current appointment, dental providers may call 1-888-424-2070 (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., M-F). In these specific situations, the prior authorization may be approved via phone if the service meets the above criteria.

Dental services including periodic exams and diagnostic services for Medicaid members ages 19-20 are covered under the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services regardless of whether it is an urgent situation. All Iowa Medicaid dental policies are applicable to members within this age range. Beginning May 1, 2014, all Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members will receive dental services through the Dental Wellness Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.