

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES


NOTICE OF PROPOSED POLICY

Public Act 280 of 1939, as amended, and consultation guidelines for Medicaid policy provide an opportunity to review proposed changes in Medicaid policies and procedures.

Please review the policy summary and the attached materials that describe the specific changes being proposed. Let us know why you support the change or oppose the change.

Submit your comments to the analyst by the due date specified. Your comments must be received by the due date to be considered for the final policy bulletin.

Thank you for participating in the consultation process.



Director, Program Policy Division  
Bureau of Medicaid Policy, Operations, and Actuarial Services

**Project Number:** 1909-Dental    **Comments Due:** May 30, 2019    **Proposed Effective Date:** August 1, 2019

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**Policy Subject:** Clarification of Dental Anesthesia Policy

**Affected Programs:** Medicaid, Healthy Kids Dental, MIChild, Children's Special Health Care Services, Healthy Michigan Plan

**Distribution:** Dentists and Dental Clinics, Dental Health Plans, Practitioners, Medicaid Health Plans, Local Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Tribal Health Centers

**Policy Summary:** Beneficiaries cannot be charged for the use of nitrous oxide or local anesthesia, as the cost is included in the reimbursement of the dental procedure performed.

**Purpose:** To provide clarification of the current dental anesthesia policy related to the use of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation and locally administered anesthetics.

# Proposed Policy Draft

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Medical Services Administration

**Distribution:** Dentists, Dental Clinics, Dental Health Plans, Practitioners, Medicaid Health Plans, Local Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Tribal Health Centers

**Issued:** July 1, 2019 (Proposed)

**Subject:** Clarification of Dental Anesthesia Policy

**Effective:** August 1, 2019 (Proposed)

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid, Healthy Kids Dental, MIChild, Children's Special Health Care Services, Healthy Michigan Plan

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the intent of current policy and coverage of anesthesia services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries by a dentist. Nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation is covered for Medicaid beneficiaries of all ages. Reimbursement for nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation is included in the cost of providing the dental procedure performed. Nitrous oxide and locally administered anesthetics have associated procedure codes published by the American Dental Association (ADA) in the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (CDT) manual; however, Medicaid does not separately reimburse for these procedures. A dentist that accepts a patient as a Medicaid beneficiary cannot bill the beneficiary for nitrous oxide or locally administered anesthetics. In addition, the beneficiary cannot be billed for the difference between the dentist's charge and the Medicaid payment for covered services.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) aligns with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommendations for the use of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation. The use of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation is indicated for, but not limited to, a dental patient for whom profound local anesthesia cannot be obtained, or a patient who is fearful, and/or has special health care needs. The ADA considers conscious sedation using nitrous oxide-oxygen to be a safe and effective method to produce analgesia and reduce anxiety in dentistry when used appropriately. Administering nitrous oxide-oxygen entails a minimal risk to patients, but dentists should be aware of contraindications for use and consult relevant medical specialists for patients with significant underlying medical conditions. Dentists should always follow evidence-based clinical best practices and the ADA's Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, which can be accessed on the ADA website at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) >> Publications >> Ethics and Professional Conduct.

Refer to the Dental chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual, Adjunctive General Services subsection, for additional information and the Directory Appendix for AAPD website information. The Medicaid Provider Manual can be accessed on the MDHHS website at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Policy, Letters & Forms.