



Provider Bulletin

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THIS ISSUE

pg 1 Criteria Requirements and Exceptions for General Anesthesia and Intravenous Sedation relative to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Criteria Requirements and Exceptions for General Anesthesia (GA) and Intravenous (IV) Sedation relative to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In alignment with recommended safety procedures and protocols from the federal [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) during the COVID-19 statewide shelter-in-place order, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) asks that Medi-Cal dental providers follow the CDC’s guidance and postpone elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits, and prioritize urgent and emergency visits. Providers can review the American Dental Association (ADA) [guidelines](#) in determining the need for urgent or emergency dental care. To alleviate administrative burden during this time, DHCS reminds providers of the exceptions allowed for IV Sedation/GA prior authorization when providing emergency dental services.

Prior Authorization (PA) Exception for IV Sedation and GA

PA can be waived when IV Sedation/GA, as outlined in the Provider Bulletin [Volume 31, Number 21](#), is medically necessary

Continued on pg 2

TRAINING SEMINARS

To reserve a spot online or to view a complete list of training seminars, to go the [Provider Training Seminar Schedule](#).

Please note: Due to the COVID-19 situation, all seminars will be held as webinars. These changes are noted in red on the Provider Training Seminar Schedule page.

PROVIDER ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE LINE

Speak with an Enrollment Specialist. Go [here](#) for more information.

Available every Wednesday
8am - 4pm



to treat an emergency medical condition. An “emergency medical condition” is defined in [Title 22, Division 3, Subdivision 1, Chapter 3, Article 2, Section 51056 \(b\)](#) of the California Code of Regulations as:

A medical condition (including emergency labor and delivery) manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in any of the following:

1. Placing the patient’s health in serious jeopardy.
2. Serious impairment to bodily functions.
3. Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

To waive PA, providers should submit claims with the following information:

- A justification of medical necessity of the IV Sedation/GA
- Pre-operative radiographs and/or photographs documenting the emergency. In addition, the claim should include all the required pre-operative radiographs and/or photographs (as needed) for the billed procedures on the claim.

The below flowchart, which is also in Provider Bulletin [Volume 31, Number 21](#), was developed to aid and ensure that Medi-Cal dental providers are submitting appropriate documentation to justify medical necessity of the IV Sedation/GA. Each case requiring IV Sedation/GA is unique and should be evaluated as such. Although standard forms may be used to document the medical necessity for IV Sedation/GA, it is imperative that Medi-Cal dental providers submit additional documentation that is specific to the case. If a dental treatment plan is available, it should be included with the justification for the IV Sedation/GA.

For more questions about this bulletin, please call the Telephone Service Center at (800) 423-0507.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES



Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) submitted for Intravenous Sedation or General Anesthesia

#1/2 Local Anesthesia/conscious sedation (oral/inhalation) ***failed***

Documentation provided must support/justify the need for the consideration of using IV Sedation or GA.

#3

Effective communicative techniques and the ability for immobilization failed or was not feasible based on the medical needs of the patient.

Documentation provided must support/justify the need for the consideration of using IV Sedation or GA.

#4

Requires extensive dental restorative treatment or surgical treatment that cannot be rendered under local anesthesia or conscious sedation.

Submitted documentation outlines the extensive treatment or surgical treatment plan based on radiographs or visual exam (if unable to obtain radiographs) of the referring Dentist.

#1/2 Local Anesthesia/conscious sedation (oral/inhalation) was ***not feasible***

#5

Patient has acute situational anxiety due to immature cognitive functioning.

Submitted documentation indicates the patient is uncooperative due to cognitive immaturity whereby they are unable to follow commands from provider rendering the needed dental/surgical interventions.

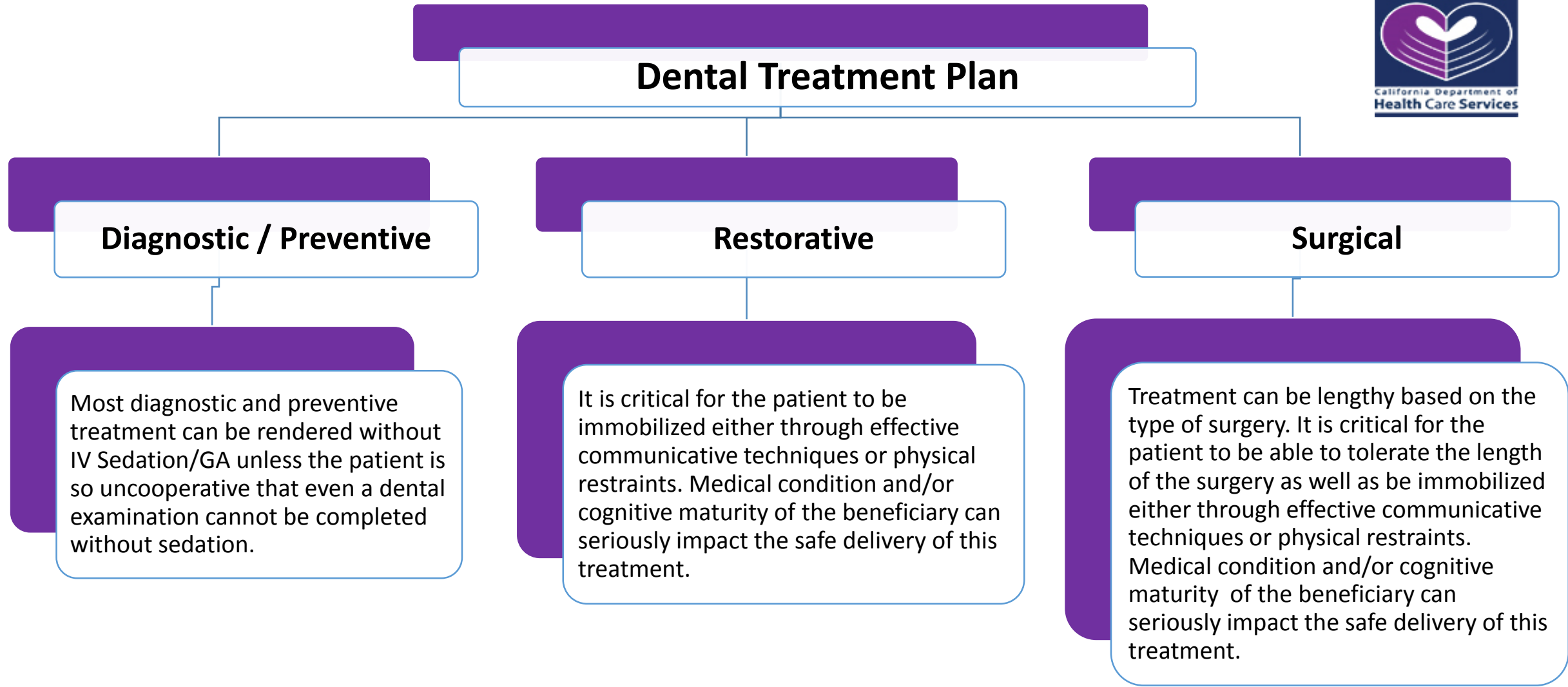
#6

Patient is uncooperative due to certain physical or mental compromising conditions.

Documentation provided must support/justify the need for the consideration of using IV Sedation or GA.

When a provider determines that a beneficiary meets one of the criteria of 3-6, it is not automatically considered to be documentation that conscious sedation or IV sedation was not feasible; rather the submitted documentation of the criteria that was met must be clearly stated in the patient's records and the submitted documentation requesting GA must clearly demonstrate the need for this covered benefit.

April 2017



Extensive dental treatment is not defined by the number of procedures rendered but the treatment that can be reasonably tolerated and rendered in a safe and humane fashion based on cognitive maturity and medical condition of the beneficiary. April 2017