

Denti-Cal California Medi-Cal Dental Bulletin

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to a Covered Medical
Procedure

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Dental Treatment Precedent to a Covered Medical Procedure

Special Instructions for Submitting Requests for Dental Treatment Precedent to Medical Procedures for Adult Beneficiaries

Effective July 1, 2009, most optional adult benefits were eliminated as stated in Denti-Cal Bulletin, Volume 25, Number 22, May 2009. That bulletin explained the exceptions that would still apply to adults 21 years and older. One of the exceptions includes dental treatment precedent to a covered medical procedure. Beneficiaries may receive dental services that are necessary (precedent) in order to undergo a covered medical service. This bulletin is intended to provide clarification concerning this exception and includes instructions on how to properly submit these requests.

The majority of these dental services are covered under the Federally Required Adult Dental Services (FRADS) listed in the Provider Handbook, [Section 4: Treating Beneficiaries](#), Table 1. A precedent dental service that is not on the list of FRADS requires a TAR and will be evaluated and adjudicated on a case-by-case basis.

A precedent dental service is one that is medically necessary in order for a medical procedure to be performed. Virtually all precedent dental services are for the improvement or elimination of transient bacteremia (the presence of bacteria in the bloodstream of the patient). One dental example is when a patient is scheduled for a heart transplant, and oral infections need to be eliminated prior to the surgery. For many of these cases, the extraction of infected teeth is the most prevalent and effective treatment. Tooth extractions are covered by the Denti-Cal program under FRADS (see Provider Handbook, Section 4: Treating Beneficiaries, Table 1), and do not require a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR). For other dental services that are requested under the dental treatment precedent to a medical procedure, a TAR must be submitted to Denti-Cal for consideration.

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A Denti-Cal dental consultant will evaluate each request and make a determination on a case by case basis. It must be noted that virtually all qualifying conditions involve medical transplants such as heart, liver or lung, or other extensive surgical interventions.

Submission Requirements

The treating Denti-Cal dentist must submit a TAR, along with all standard documentation (written and/or radiographic) that is required for the procedure being requested. In addition, the patient must obtain a statement from his/her medical physician detailing the specific medical procedure(s) that are to be performed. This statement must be on the physician's professional letterhead and must be signed and dated by the physician. The patient will need to forward this information to the treating Denti-Cal dentist for submission with the TAR.

These situations or circumstances are relatively rare and will be handled on a case by case basis. Therefore, the TAR for dental treatment precedent to a medical procedure will be subject to "special handling".

Please call the Telephone Service Center at (800) 423-0507 for special instructions regarding the submittal of requests for dental treatment precedent to medical procedures for adult beneficiaries.

Please do not send these TARs to the regular Denti-Cal P.O. Box. If TARs are sent to the regular Denti-Cal P.O. Box they will not receive "special handling" and may be denied. Providers are required to follow the specific mailing instructions supplied by Denti-Cal telephone staff.