

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Giise</i>	DATE <i>8-17-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>101088</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>C: Director Keck</i> <i>cleared 8/29/11, letter attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>8-30-11</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

SOUTH CAROLINA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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RECEIVED

AUG 17 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

SC Department of Health & Human Services
Anthony E. Keck, Director
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Director Keck:

As you know, DHHS eliminated emergency adult dental services recently. Since that time, oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMS) have had no method for billing medical procedures (CPT code procedures not CDT codes) for adults being treated for injuries or infections. Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) and Plastic surgery physicians can provide the services and be paid but if it is an OMS that provides the service, they will not be paid because it is denied as a non-covered adult dental service.

These procedures are things like fracture repair, neck abscess incision and drainage, complex laceration repair and other similar procedures that OMS's are often called upon to treat as part of hospital call responsibilities. These services are highly valued by physician colleagues who often must call upon OMS physicians to consult and or assist on these very cases when they have to admit the patient. It only seems fair that they be compensated in the same manner for providing the same services.

The SCDA wants to stress that **we are not asking for the addition of new codes or procedures**, but simply that a means of filing for reimbursement for these already covered codes be allowed by Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. This will not increase costs to Medicaid as they would be paying the same amount to a treating physician anyway.

Allowing OMS's to bill directly to Medical will avoid the problems, additional costs and confusion that is occurring when a Medicaid covered adult presents to the emergency room with a problem easily handled by an OMS, but is instead having to be shifted to an ENT or Plastic Surgeon due to this reimbursement discrepancy.

Thank you for your help in this matter. Please feel free to call if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Phil Latham

SCDA Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL



TO <i>Giese/Vaughn</i>	DATE <i>8-17-11</i>
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APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
<i>1. [Signature]</i>	<i>8/25/11</i>		
<i>2. [Signature]</i>	<i>8/31</i>		
3.			
4.			



August 29, 2011

Mr. Phil Latham, Executive Director
South Carolina Dental Association
120 Stonemark Lane
Columbia South Carolina 29210

Dear Mr. Latham:

Thank you for the letter regarding recent changes to the Medicaid Dental Program.

As you may know, the Department of Health and Human Services will meet with representatives from DentaQuest Tuesday, August 30th, as well as their newly appointed Oral Surgery consultant Dr. James Carlisle, Dr. James Mercer and Dr. Phillip Prickett to discuss the adult dental services policy and the issue of non-payment to oral surgeons which is referenced in your letter. We will inform you of any change in our policy or program.

I appreciate your continued service to our Medicaid recipients. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenovia Vaughn, Program Director at (803) 898-2665. Thank you for your continued support of the Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

Melanie "Bz" Giese, RN
Deputy Director

MG/vw