

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>11-6-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOC NUMBER <i>000254</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Checked 12/2/08, letter attached.</i> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>11-18-08</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.			

RECEIVED

NOV 06 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

TO:

BEVERLY _____

FELICITY _____

BRENDA JAMES _____

FROM:

SHIRLEY CARRINGTON

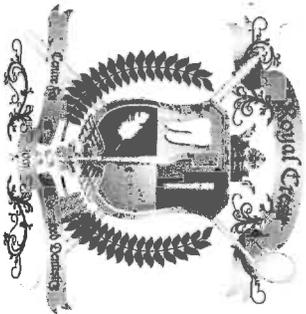
I received this letter from Dr. Ryan Marcello of the Royal Crest Centre for Advanced Dentistry, dated the day after the conference call with Cynthia Higgins, myself, Dr. Marcello and Bret Dunn (Dr. Marcello's office manager) discussing his issues with the Medicaid anesthesia reimbursement rates for an "anesthesiologist" he employed in his practice. I have since learned that this person was not a licensed anesthesiologist, but a licensed dentist who only wanted to administer General Anesthesia in a dental office and not practice dentistry. During the call, Dr. Marcello indicated that this person was no longer in his employ and had returned to Ohio.

I'm forwarding this letter for your review and to be processed as a log letter so that we may return an answer to Dr. Marcello as soon as possible.

UT

*Amie -
Would you please
send this up to be
logged in (per Amie)
Thanks!
Shirley*

*Brenda - Ple log to FM
C: DSS, LF - app. sur*



www.royalcrestdental.com

Royal Crest

Centre for Advanced Dentistry

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NOV 06 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Ryan Marcello, D.M.D.

10/24/08

Shirley Carrington
SC DHHS
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

RE: The Royal Crest Centre for Advanced Dentistry/Anesthesia Reimbursement

Dear Mrs. Carrington:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation on October 23rd I have written this letter as requested to explain to you who we are, the services that we provide our patients, and what we are requesting of your agency as a result of our circumstances.

The Royal Crest Centre for Advanced Dentistry, located in the Upstate of South Carolina, is a unique dental office. Much of what we do here at our office is serve the needs of patients traditionally neglected by the dental profession. Many of these patients require special care because of their physical and mental disabilities which may preclude the possibility of these patients being treated by normal methods. Also due to serious dental problems, often caused by years of neglect, these patients require vast amounts of treatment. We are the first dental office in The State of South Carolina and among the first in the country to routinely provide General Anesthesia as a means to provide general dental care on an outpatient basis. We have chosen to invest in the necessary equipment and employ a properly trained and skilled medical professional needed to achieve our goal of providing our patients the best care and the most efficient treatment possible.

Currently, the method for treating a patient requiring general anesthesia is to appoint the patient for a time when they can travel to the hospital, or ambulatory surgery center reserve the needed time in the operating room, request an anesthesiologist, and the dentist then performs the procedure. We are attempting to eliminate the need for the patient and the dentist to travel to the hospital for treatment that could otherwise easily take place in the dental office. Doing this improves patient compliance and saves both time and money for the patient as well as for the Medicaid system.

As described above, the way in which this process normally takes place can be very costly, involving billing codes from the dentist, as well as the hospital or ASC, and can reach in excess of \$10,000. Consequently, we are not seeking to profit from the Medicaid system but simply cover our cost for the materials and services provided. Therefore we are requesting the current code D9220 be raised to \$490.00 and the current D9241 code be raised to \$189.00. Please understand that an average general anesthesia appointment lasts about an hour, the cost of the CRNA salary for that time is \$120.00 and for an Anesthesiologist it costs \$270.00. Additionally, we must consider the equipment cost, maintenance, disposable supplies, and anesthesia, all of which are costly.

We thoroughly appreciate the time and consideration you will place into this matter as it is very important to us and our patients.

Sincerely,

Ryan Marcello, D.M.D.

RECEIVED
HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES
OCT 31 2008

**PREVENTATIVE & ANCILLARY
HEALTH SERVICES**



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

December 2, 2008

Emma Fortner
Director

Log # 254 ✓

Ryan Marcello, D.M.D.
Royal Crest Centre for Advanced Dentistry
103 A Regency Commons Drive
Greer, South Carolina 29650

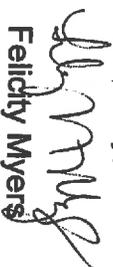
Dear Dr. Marcello:

Thank you for your letter dated October 24, 2008, in which you requested an increase in the reimbursement rate for the American Dental Association (ADA) Current Dental Terminology (CDT) procedure codes D9220, Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia, and D9241, Intravenous Conscious Sedation/Analgesia to allow for the additional costs of administration of these procedures in your dental office setting by employment of an Anesthesiologist or a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Staff members have reviewed your request, reviewed the state laws associated with the current practice guidelines and are confident that the current arrangements are sufficient to meet the needs of the South Carolina Medicaid population.

Effective October 1, 2008, the Dental Fee Schedule was updated to 64% of the Ingenix Relative Value Study (IRVS) and the reimbursement rates were revised accordingly. These rate revisions included the funds appropriated by the Legislature for an increase to the dental rates and the 3 % budget reduction. There are no plans to increase the reimbursement for dental procedure codes in the immediate future.

Your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid program is appreciated. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ms. Shirley Carrington at (803) 898-2655.

Sincerely,


Felicity Myers
Deputy Director

FCM/hhw