

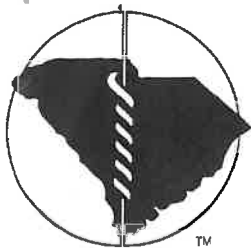
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

**ACTION REFERRAL**

TO <i>Giese</i>	DATE <i>8-16-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100085</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>8-25-11</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>C: Director Keck</i> <i>cleared 8/29/11, letter attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <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 Medical Association**  
*Voice of One. Power of Many.*

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Todd K. Atwater, JD  
Chief Executive Officer

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

Dear Director Keck:

I am asking for your help regarding a discrepancy in payment to providers from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) when it comes to adults needing medical procedures related to dental trauma or dental disease.

As you know, DHHS eliminated 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 these injuries or infections. 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 noncovered adult dental service. It is my understanding that the addition of an edit code should allow OMS providers to bill these services to Medicaid instead of having to go through Medicaid Dental/DentaQuest.

The procedures I am referring to are things like fracture repair, neck abscess incision and drainage, complex laceration repair and other similar procedures we 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.

I want to stress that I am 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, ill will 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,

  
Todd Atwater  
CEO

**RECEIVED**

AUG 16 2011

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

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AUG 17 2011

Division of Medical  
Support Services

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Giese Vaughn</i>	DATE <i>8-16-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>150085</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>8-25-11</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>C. Director Keck</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <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
<i>1. [Signature]</i>	<i>8/22/11</i>		
<i>2. [Signature]</i>	<i>8/31</i>		
3.			
4.			



August 29, 2011

Mr. Todd Atwater  
Chief Executive Officer  
South Carolina Medical Association  
Post Office 11188  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1188

Dear Mr. Atwater:

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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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