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## **Dental Services, Appliances, Oral Surgery and T.M.J.**

### Benefit Coverage

Maxillofacial anatomic or functional reconstructive surgery and associated services performed due to missing or defective mandible, maxilla or associated structures, are covered benefits if medically indicated.

### Benefit Exclusion

Dental services are not a covered benefit. "Dental Services" mean professional services performed or provided by dentists, including diagnosis and treatment of malposed teeth, disease or defects of the alveolar process, gums, jaws and associated structures; the use of specific medications, anesthetics and physical evaluations; consultations; home, office and institutional calls.

The diagnosis and treatment of temporomandibular joint dysfunction (T.M.J.) is not a covered benefit for Medi-Cal Members.

### Examples of Covered Benefits

1. Inpatient hospital services furnished in connection with a surgical procedure if the patient has had an immediate accidental injury to natural teeth, jawbone or surrounding tissue.
2. Immediate emergency room services for trauma to the mouth.
3. Wiring of teeth when done in connection with the reduction of a jaw fracture.
4. Oral surgery for a patient with multiple traumas from an automobile accident, when medically stable.
5. Jaw reconstruction, when medically necessary due to removal of mandibular bone for cancer or tumor.
6. Outpatient or inpatient medical hospital services furnished in connection with the treatment of medically indicated dental procedures necessary to be performed in a hospital based setting. To include all hospital based medical services relating to such procedures, with prior authorization per Denti-Cal and IEHP.
7. General Anesthesia – See "General Anesthesia-Dental"

## **Dental Services, Appliances, Oral Surgery and T.M.J.** (continued)

### Examples of Non-Covered Benefits

1. Routine Dental Screening.
2. Care and treatment of T.M.J. caused by any reason for Medi-Cal Members.
3. Any medical services of physicians done in connection with non-covered dental services (e.g., dentist, oral surgeon, or pathologist services when connected with the care, treatment, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth or structures directly supporting the teeth), performed in an office or dental clinic setting.
4. Removal of teeth for the main purpose of fitting for dentures.
5. Reconstruction of jaw or supporting tissues to provide a better fit for dentures or following services which were purely dental in nature.
6. Extraction of an impacted tooth.
7. Orthodontic treatment.

## **Detoxification (Substance Abuse)**

Benefit Coverage (Medi-Cal Regulations – Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, §§ 51328, 51341)  
(DHCS Contract 04-35765, Amend. 10, Exhibit E, § 25G)

Inpatient detoxification is covered only when the inpatient admission is primarily due to an underlying medical condition, which requires acute inpatient care.

Detoxification alone as a reason for inpatient admission is not covered.

### Benefit Exclusion

Services for the treatment of chronic, medically uncomplicated drug dependence or alcoholism are not covered benefits. Patients requiring outpatient detoxification services will be referred to the Short-Doyle Medi-Cal (SD/MC) or Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) program.

### Examples of Covered Benefits

1. Inpatient treatment of alcoholism or drug dependence is not covered unless there is an underlying medical condition requiring acute, 24-hour monitoring (e.g., Myocardial Infarction, CVA, etc.).
2. Inpatient detoxification will be covered in conjunction with an admission as outlined above.

### Examples of Non-Covered Benefits

1. All drug and/or alcohol detoxification where there are no medical complications.
2. Inpatient detoxification after the patient's medical condition has stabilized.
3. Outpatient detoxification services.

## **Durable Medical Equipment (DME)**

### Definition

DME is equipment which:

- can withstand repeated use; can normally be rented and used by successive patients.
- is primarily used to serve a medical purpose.
- is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury.
- is appropriate for use in a patient's home when applicable.

### Benefit Coverage (Medi-Cal Regulations – Cal. Code Regs., tit. 22, § 51321)

DME means equipment, which meets the medical equipment needs of the patient. DME is covered in accordance with the standards in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 51303(a) and when prior authorization is obtained through the contracted IPA.

DME may be authorized for skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility inpatients as follows:

1. The equipment is necessary for the continuous care of the patient to meet the medical needs of the patient.
2. Cane, crutches, wheelchairs, and walkers may be authorized only when the item must be custom made or modified to meet the unusual medical needs of the patient and the need is expected to be permanent.
3. Suction and positive pressure apparatus may be authorized for one month or more only when the item will be continuously used by the patient or must be immediately available to the patient.
4. Durable medical equipment may be authorized to assist a disabled Member in caring for a child for whom the Member is a parent, stepparent, foster parent, or legal guardian. (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 14132)

### Benefit Exclusion

Medical equipment will not be authorized when a household item will adequately serve the patient's medical needs and authorization for DME shall be limited to the lowest cost item that meets the patient's medical needs.

## **Durable Medical Equipment** (continued)

### Examples of Covered Benefits

Refer to “Appendix A” - DME, Corrective Appliances, Medical Supplies and Surgical Implantables Grid.

### Examples of Non-Covered Benefits

1. Alterations or improvements of real property are not covered.
2. Modification of automobiles.
3. Books.
4. Air conditioners or air filters.
5. Food blenders.
6. Reading lamps.
7. Bicycles or tricycles.
8. Orthopedic mattresses.
9. Waterbeds.
10. Household items.

**See:** **Appendix A**

DME, Corrective Appliances, Medical Supplies and Surgical Implantables Grid