



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

September 28, 2007

To: Nursing Facility Providers

Subject: Information Letters #07-91 Clarification of Medicaid-certified
Nursing Facility Emergency Dental Services

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) has received information that indicates there is confusion related to coverage for allowable Emergency Dental Services. The current rule is in effect without change and applies when an emergency dental procedure is required by a Medicaid recipient in a Medicaid-certified Nursing Facility.

The rule is located in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) at Chapter 19, Nursing Facility Requirements for Licensure and Medicaid Certification; Subchapter O, Dental Services, and is available for reference through the DADS *Nursing Facility Requirements for Licensure and Medicaid Certification Handbook* at:

<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/nfr-lmc/O/index.htm>

No prior authorization is required in an emergency situation. To be reimbursed for Emergency Dental Services provided to an eligible Medicaid recipient residing in a Medicaid-certified nursing facility, the nursing facility must ensure that services meet the criterion outlined in §19.1401 and §19.1402.

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) does not reimburse Emergency Dental Services when the recipient is eligible for dental services through the Medicaid claims processor, Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) or the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

The payment process when a dentist provides Emergency Dental Services includes:

- (1) the dentist bills the nursing facility;
- (2) the nursing facility submits the claim request to DADS Special Programs and Services Unit for authorization to pay the bill through Provider Claims, Services Support Unit;
- (3) DADS authorizes the payment;
- (4) the facility submits the claim for the service to TMHP for payment; and
- (5) the nursing facility pays the dentist.

The nursing facility is reimbursed the lower amount of:

- (1) the dentist's usual fee; or
- (2) the maximum fee for the specific dental procedure provided based on the fee schedule in effect on the date of the service.

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Questions about DADS Medicaid-certified Nursing Facility Emergency Dental Services policy may be submitted to Geri Willems at geri.willems@DADS.state.tx.us or at (512) 438-3159 or to me at tommy.ford@dads.state.tx.us or at (512) 438-3543.

For questions or assistance related to the payment process for Emergency Dental Services you may call DADS Provider Claims at 1-800-792-1109.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Tommy Ford
Section Director
Institutional Services