

**MEDICAID POLICY INFORMATION SHEET**

**Policy Analyst:** Kyle Norman

**Phone Number:** 517-284-1208

Initial

Public Comment

Final

**Brief description of policy:**

This bulletin provides clarification of the current dental anesthesia policy related to the use of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation and locally administered anesthetics. Beneficiaries cannot be charged for the use of nitrous oxide or local anesthesia, as the cost is included in the reimbursement of the dental procedure performed.

**Reason for policy (problem being addressed):**

The cost of providing nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation is included in the reimbursement of the dental procedure performed. However, inhalation of nitrous oxide is also listed as a non-covered service. Consequently, beneficiaries are being charged for the use of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation.

**Budget implication:**

- budget neutral
- will cost MDHHS \$ \_\_\_\_\_, and (select one) budgeted in current appropriation
- will save MDHHS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Is this policy change mandated per federal requirements?**

No.

**Does policy have operational implications on other parts of MDHHS?**

No.

**Does policy have operational implications on other departments?**

No.

**Summary of input:**

- controversial
- acceptable to most/all groups
- limited public interest/comment

**Supporting Documentation:**

State Plan Amendment Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Public Notice Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please provide status:	If yes, Submission Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	
Date:                      Approval                      Date:	

<b>DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT</b>  <b>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</b>		
	<b>Project Number:</b> 1909-Dental	<b>Date:</b> April 25, 2019

**Comments Due:** May 30, 2019  
**Proposed Effective Date:** August 1, 2019  
**Direct Comments To:** Kyle Norman  
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<p><b>Policy Subject:</b> Clarification of Dental Anesthesia Policy</p> <p><b>Affected Programs:</b> Medicaid, Healthy Kids Dental, MIChild, Children’s Special Health Care Services, Healthy Michigan Plan</p> <p><b>Distribution:</b> Dentists, Dental Clinics, Dental Health Plans, Practitioners, Medicaid Health Plans, Local Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Tribal Health Centers</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Beneficiaries cannot be charged for the use of nitrous oxide or local anesthesia, as the cost is included in the reimbursement of the dental procedure performed.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To provide clarification of the current dental anesthesia policy related to the use of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation and locally administered anesthetics.</p> <p><b>Cost Implications:</b> Budget neutral</p> <p><b>Potential Hearings &amp; Appeal Issues:</b> None known</p>
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<b>State Plan Amendment Required:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, date submitted:	<b>Public Notice Required:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted date:
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**Tribal Notification:** Yes  No  - Date:

**THIS SECTION COMPLETED BY RECEIVER**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Approved</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No Comments</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Disapproved</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>See Comments Below</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>See Comments in Text</b>

<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
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**Signature Printed:**

<b>Bureau/Administration</b> <i>(please print)</i>	<b>Date</b>
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# Proposed Policy Draft

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
Medical Services Administration

**Distribution:** Dentists, Dental Clinics, Dental Health Plans, Practitioners, Medicaid Health Plans, Local Health Departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Tribal Health Centers

**Issued:** July 1, 2019 (Proposed)

**Subject:** Clarification of Dental Anesthesia Policy

**Effective:** August 1, 2019 (Proposed)

**Programs Affected:** Medicaid, Healthy Kids Dental, MIChild, Children's Special Health Care Services, Healthy Michigan Plan

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the intent of current policy and coverage of anesthesia services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries by a dentist. Nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation is covered for Medicaid beneficiaries of all ages. Reimbursement for nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation is included in the cost of providing the dental procedure performed. Nitrous oxide and locally administered anesthetics have associated procedure codes published by the American Dental Association (ADA) in the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (CDT) manual; however, Medicaid does not separately reimburse for these procedures. A dentist that accepts a patient as a Medicaid beneficiary cannot bill the beneficiary for nitrous oxide or locally administered anesthetics. In addition, the beneficiary cannot be billed for the difference between the dentist's charge and the Medicaid payment for covered services.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) aligns with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommendations for the use of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation. The use of nitrous oxide-oxygen sedation is indicated for, but not limited to, a dental patient for whom profound local anesthesia cannot be obtained, or a patient who is fearful, and/or has special health care needs. The ADA considers conscious sedation using nitrous oxide-oxygen to be a safe and effective method to produce analgesia and reduce anxiety in dentistry when used appropriately. Administering nitrous oxide-oxygen entails a minimal risk to patients, but dentists should be aware of contraindications for use and consult relevant medical specialists for patients with significant underlying medical conditions. Dentists should always follow evidence-based clinical best practices and the ADA's Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, which can be accessed on the ADA website at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org) >> Publications >> Ethics and Professional Conduct.

Refer to the Dental chapter of the Medicaid Provider Manual, Adjunctive General Services subsection, for additional information and the Directory Appendix for AAPD website information. The Medicaid Provider Manual can be accessed on the MDHHS website at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Policy, Letters & Forms.