



Provider Bulletin

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THIS ISSUE

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Disaster Assistance to Evacuated Members and Dental Offices

Note: This is an update to an earlier announcement about disaster assistance for fire-affected counties. The counties of Riverside, El Dorado, and Placer have been added. Siskiyou County has been revised.

The Department of Health Care Services will allow member and provider processing exceptions to expedite the replacement of removable dental appliances for those impacted by the recent fire in California.

Removable dental appliances include:

- Orthodontic retainers
- Space maintainers
- Partial and full dentures
- Temporomandibular joint appliances fabricated by professionals which may be removed and inserted by the member

Disaster assistance will be provided to the following counties:

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TRAINING SEMINARS

To reserve a spot online or view a complete list of training seminars, go to the [Provider Training Seminar Schedule](#).

PROVIDER ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE LINE

Speak with an Enrollment Specialist. Go [here](#) for more information.

Available every Wednesday
8am - 4pm



County Disaster Assistance Provided To	Effective Date	End Date
El Dorado	September 8, 2022	November 30, 2023
Mariposa	July 22, 2022	September 30, 2023
Placer	September 8, 2022	November 30, 2023
Riverside	September 8, 2022	November 30, 2023
Siskiyou	September 2, 2022; previously July 30, 2022	November 30, 2023; previously September 30, 2023

Will prior authorization be waived?

Claims will be accepted without requiring prior authorization and will not be rejected due to frequency limitations for subsequent removable appliances for eligible members who are residents of the impacted county. Claims for exams and radiographs connected to the removable appliances will also be accepted and will not be rejected due to frequency limitations.

Exceptions to prior authorization requirements will be allowed. “Title 22, Section 51003, State of California Code of Regulations allows for the retroactive approval of prior authorization under the following conditions: When the required service could not be delayed ...” ([Provider Handbook](#) Section 5 - Manual of Criteria and Section 2 - Program Overview, page 2-13). For provider claims submitted for replacement of removable appliances, the claims will be evaluated to determine if they are requested from the impacted county identified above.

What does the claim need to demonstrate?

The negative impact of the fire or the extreme fire weather conditions alone will meet the criteria of medical necessity.

What does the claim need to include?

Providers are instructed to include the statement **“Patient impacted by fires and extreme weather conditions and removable appliance was lost”** within the comments field on the claim. Damaged appliances will be screened for repair.

Reminder: Partial and full dentures require submission of a properly completed Justification of Need for Prosthesis (DC054) form (Rev 09/18). For detailed instructions, please refer to [Provider Handbook](#) Section 6 - Forms, pages 6-48 to 6-51.

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Will late submission of claims be accepted?

For Medi-Cal dental providers that must submit late billing due to the fire or extreme weather conditions, providers are instructed to include substantiating documentation that justifies the late submission of a claim.

Providers must submit statements about the circumstances of the fire or extreme weather condition that were beyond their control, such as: damage to or destruction of their business office or records; circumstances of the fire that substantially interfered with the timely processing of bills; or other circumstances clearly beyond the control of the provider, that was reported to the appropriate law enforcement or fire agency.

Payment for removable appliances that have been fabricated by a lab but cannot be delivered to the member must follow the requirements in the [Provider Handbook](#) Section 2 - Program Overview, Billing and Payment Policies, Time Limitations for Billing, pages 2-20.

Will claims for members living in other counties be accepted?

For members residing in other counties that lost their removable appliance while temporarily in the impacted county, claims will be accepted for removable appliances and related exams and radiographs without prior authorization and will not reject claims due to frequency limitations; however further documentation of need is required.

Documentation must include: a copy of the official Public Service Agency Report (fire or police) filed in the county in which the removable appliance was lost, the statement that the member lost the removable appliance due to the fire, and identification of the county where the removable appliance was lost. Claims submitted due to the situation above will be evaluated.

Providers are encouraged to monitor the [Medi-Cal Dental website](#) for future updates. Questions about this notice may be directed to the Telephone Service Center at (800) 423-0507.