

Denti-Cal Bulletin



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MAY 2005 UPDATE!

HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA) TRANSACTIONS AND CODE SETS AND SECURITY RULE

What's New?

- ✓ Under HIPAA, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted a Standard Unique Health Identifier for Health Care Providers, which is known as the National Provider Identifier (NPI). Please see specific NPI information below.
- ✓ A postcard survey regarding the readiness for submitting CDT-4 procedure codes was distributed in the first provider payment in April, 2005. While we have received many responses and the requested response date has passed, we encourage providers to please submit the postcard survey as soon as possible. Your response is critical to the success of the transition to CDT-4 and associated new criteria.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Claim Format, Companion Guide, Trading Partner Agreement and Certification Process

Denti-Cal is now able to accept the newer Version 4010A1 format for claims (ASC X12N 837) and claim status (ASC X12N 276) from certified trading partners, for electronically transmitted claims. All participating providers, and/or their contracted clearinghouses, are to obtain Denti-Cal certification for the 4010A1 format.

The requirement for the Medi-Cal Dental Telecommunications Provider and Biller Application/Agreement (hereinafter "Trading Partner Agreement") applies to all providers who submit claims and Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) electronically, including providers who utilize a clearinghouse. ***Effective June 1, 2005, if you fail to submit the required Trading Partner Agreement, you will no longer be allowed to continue to submit through EDI.***

A copy of the Denti-Cal EDI Companion Guide, as well as the Trading Partner Agreement, can be obtained by phoning Provider Services toll-free at (800) 423-0507, or (916) 853-7373 and asking for EDI Support. Requests may also be sent by e-mail to denti-caledi@delta.org.

National Provider Identifier (NPI)

This article is the first in a series about the National Provider Identifier (NPI) and how it will affect Medi-Cal Dental Program (Denti-Cal) providers.

Below is a brief description of the NPI regulations:

- ✓ Providers may apply for an NPI, which is a 10-digit number, with a check digit in the 10th position, and does not contain any embedded information about the health provider, on or after May 23, 2005. The compliance date for providers, most health plans, and clearinghouses is May 23, 2007. Small health plans must comply by May 23, 2008.
- ✓ The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) will be used to assign NPIs to providers. CMS and its contractor maintain the NPPES.
- ✓ Covered health care providers will be required to obtain an NPI and use this NPI on all covered health care transactions. Once the NPI is implemented nationally, most providers will be able to utilize the NPI for all public and private payers.
- ✓ Covered health plans and health care clearinghouses will be required to use the NPI as the identifier on all covered transactions.

Denti-Cal is currently assessing how the NPI will impact the operations and systems of Denti-Cal. Providers must continue utilizing their existing Denti-Cal provider numbers until further notice. NPI Providers will be notified when the NPI will be accepted by Denti-Cal.

For more information about the NPI and/or the NPI enrollment application process, please visit the Web site for CMS at www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/regulations/identifiers/default.asp.

Secured E-mail Messaging System (SEMS)

When Denti-Cal sends you an encrypted e-mail, you will receive a message directing you to access Delta's secure Web site to retrieve the e-mail. You will need to register and select a password of your choosing (the software will automatically prompt you to do this). You will only need to register the first time you use the system; thereafter you may retrieve messages simply by entering your password. Each individual e-mail recipient within a provider's office will need to register, as the registration is specific to the e-mail address of the recipient.

The software implementation is part of Denti-Cal's compliance with the federal HIPAA Security Rule. The HIPAA compliance date for providing secure transmission of electronic data was April 21, 2005.

Important Reminders!

- Current Dental Terminology Version 4 (CDT-4) will be required for **paper and electronic** transactions beginning October 1, 2005. Please note: CDT codes are not currently accepted by Denti-Cal and are considered invalid until the conversion takes place. Any claim service line submitted with an invalid procedure code or a blank procedure code field will be denied, whether submitted electronically or as paper documents.
- CDT codes are developed and maintained by the American Dental Association. Denti-Cal will be converting to CDT-4, and in the near future to CDT-5.
- CDT codes within the scope of Denti-Cal benefits and associated criteria will be available soon.
- Changes are being made to the Manual of Criteria in conjunction with the CDT-4 codes.
- Monthly Denti-Cal bulletins will be provided as changes are made or reminders are needed for the CDT Code Conversions.
- CDT-4 training seminars will be scheduled and providers will be notified of the dates and locations as they are made available.

For additional information regarding HIPAA, please refer to the following Web sites:

- ✓ www.medi-cal.ca.gov (Medi-Cal Web site)
- ✓ www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/hipaa (Department of Health Services, Office of HIPAA Compliance)
- ✓ <http://aspe.hhs.gov/admsimp/index.shtml> (Department of Health and Human Services)
- ✓ www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2/regulations/identifiers/default.asp (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

Direct e-mails to: DentiCal_HIPAA@delta.org. All e-mails will be responded to as quickly as possible.