

General Anesthesia Access for Dental Patients

Significant Increase in Funding for CPT 41899

Michigan Medicaid Increases Facility Fee, No Reduction Factor

In the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 State Budget, Medicaid received a \$10 million investment dedicated to ensuring hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers received increased reimbursement for the facility fee when providing operating room access for dental cases.

Michigan Medicaid parted ways with the Medicare fee schedule for this code to be able to raise rates to a competitive level. The rate was increased from approximately \$200 per case to \$2,300 for hospitals and \$1,495 for ambulatory surgical centers.

In addition, the legislature stipulated that Medicaid cannot apply a reduction factor for CPT 41899.

The new rate took effect October 1, 2022 and has received CMS approval.

Medicaid billing highlights:

- Bill the patient's Medicaid health plan using CPT code 41899 Facility Fee.
- Payment for hospitals is \$2,300 per case.
- No Medicaid reduction factor can be applied.
- The anesthesia professional will bill the patient's Medicaid health plan for anesthesia services provided.
- The dentist will bill the patient's Medicaid dental plan for dental services provided.

Why Dental Cases in a Hospital Operating Room?

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Medicaid data shows approximately 5,500 Medicaid dental patients were treated in operating rooms annually. Dentists across the state were reporting issues with a lack of appropriate access to general anesthesia services in a hospital or ASC setting. In early 2021, a survey by the Michigan Dental Association and Michigan Oral Health Coalition estimated that approximately 10,000 dental cases that required general anesthesia were backlogged due to decreased operating room availability and pandemic limitations of so-called non-essential services. That backlog has not improved as of early 2023.

While dentists do have the ability to provide many levels of pain control and sedation within their own offices, there is a segment of the population that require access to greater intervention in the case of an adverse event. Some of the cases a dentist might seek general anesthesia in a hospital or ASC include:

- Patients with severe physical, developmental or mental disabilities
- Very young patients in need of extensive dental treatment
- Patients needing extensive immediate intervention (extensive trauma, severe infection/cellulitis)

- Patients for whom local anesthetic is ineffective due to allergy, anatomic variations, acute infection
- Patients with multiple medical comorbidities in need of extensive dental intervention

The Michigan Dental Association estimates approximately 25% of the current caseload need to receive treatment in a hospital setting due to medical necessity. The remaining 75% would likely fit criteria to be safely treated in an ambulatory surgery center.

Want to Know More? Looking for Dentists?

If you are interested in learning more, please visit www.michigandental.org/General-Anesthesia.

Resources include a presentation by MDA and MAPD that includes equipment and staffing needs, FAQs, and case examples.

The website above provides a form to submit to be included in a directory available to dentists who contact the MDA looking for a host facility. The MDA will maintain a list of dentists seeking host facilities as well.

If you would like to advertise your facility as a host facility for dental cases, the same web page offers information on advertising in MDA publications and how to be an exhibitor at our annual trade show.

Please contact the MDA's April Stopczynski if you need further assistance.



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“Can’t You Just Wait Until They Fall Out?”



Untreated dental decay has been increasingly associated with serious health conditions including heart disease, diabetes, malnutrition, premature birth and low birth weight.

Untreated dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. It accounts for millions of lost school and work hours each year. It affects a person's ability to eat, speak and interact with society.

The mouth is a critical part of the body and early indicators of many systemic diseases first appear with oral symptoms.

It is incumbent on the health care system to ensure equitable access to care in a manner that meets current standards of care. This includes access to care in the most appropriate setting for safe, ethical delivery of care.

[CMS Code G0330]

CMS Code G0330 should NOT be used for billing Medicaid plans in Michigan. Michigan Medicaid has departed from the Medicare fee schedule and the proper billing code in Michigan is CPT 41899.

G0330 applies only in states that strictly follow the Medicare fee schedule and the reimbursement is lower than Michigan's reimbursement for CPT 41899. In addition, states can apply the Medicaid reduction factor which results in lower actual payment.

Learn more at www.michigandental.org/General-Anesthesia