

Denti-Cal Bulletin



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UPDATE!

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

What's New?

- ✓ Denti-Cal has implemented a secured e-mail messaging system (SEMS), which protects sensitive information. If you receive an e-mail from Denti-Cal, you may start receiving your messages in an encrypted format. Please see the specific SEMS information on page 2.
- ✓ A postcard survey was distributed in the first provider payment in April. Your prompt response to this survey is required and very much appreciated to ensure a smooth transition to CDT-4 and associated new criteria.
- ✓ The schedule for provider training sessions for CDT-4 and associated criteria is currently being developed. Once the schedule is confirmed, it will be released in a future bulletin.
- ✓ A translation from local codes to CDT-4 procedure codes, called a crosswalk, is being developed and will be made available in the second quarter of 2005.

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.

A provider submitting claims electronically is required to undergo certification for the 4010A1 format. However, if a provider is submitting claims electronically through its contracted clearinghouse, only the clearinghouse must be certified. In this case, a provider must ensure that its contracted clearinghouse has been certified through Denti-Cal, prior to submitting claims.

After the target date of June 1, 2005, Denti-Cal will no longer accept electronic documents from those who have not been certified 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. ***If you fail to submit the required Trading Partner Agreement, you will no longer be allowed to continue to submit through EDI. Also, if you utilize a clearinghouse to submit electronically, the clearinghouse will be unable to submit electronically on your behalf, if you have not submitted a Trading Partner Agreement.*** To avoid disruption to your EDI process, please submit the required Trading Partner Agreement.

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.

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 is no later than April 21, 2005.

Important Reminders Regarding CDT Code Conversions!

- 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, October 1, 2005. Sufficient notification will be made prior to the transition to CDT-4 codes. Also, 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.
- 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.

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)

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