



JENNIFER KENT  
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

DATE: January 20, 2016

TO: ALL MEDI-CAL DENTAL MANAGED CARE PLANS

SUBJECT: **APL 16-005: REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS IN ALTERNATIVE PRACTICE POLICY AMENDMENTS**

The purpose of this All Plan Letter (APL) is to instruct the Medi-Cal Dental Managed Care (DMC) plans to implement the following policy with regards to program enrolled Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAPs): RDHAPs may perform procedure code D2940 – Protective Restoration, when treatment instruction is provided by a supervising dentist as a result of a Virtual Dental Home encounter.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is instructing the Medi-Cal DMC plans to make the necessary programmatic changes to implement the above policy for program enrolled RDHAPs. RDHAPs will be required to submit a prescription/referral that is made specifically for code D2940 and contains the following information:

1. The pre-printed name, address, license number, and signature of the prescribing dentist;
2. The name, address, and phone number of the patient; and
3. The date the services are prescribed.

Prescriptions will not be a requirement for payment of services and do not have to be submitted at the time the claim for D2940 is submitted. However, the prescription must be in the patient's records and will be subject to audit and review.

This procedure will be payable when all criteria are met in accordance with the Manual of Criteria (MOC) for Medi-Cal Authorization of dental services. Additionally, RDHAPs will be authorized to bill for pre-operative radiographs in conjunction with D2940 if they are required to take them in order for a supervising dentist to prescribe the procedure. If the supervising dentist prescribes D2940 based on radiographs the RDHAP did not take, the RDHAP will not be authorized to bill for it.

The implementation date for this policy is February 3, 2016. DHCS expects the Medi-Cal DMC plans to adhere to this policy in accordance with the MOC. DMC plans are permitted to make the necessary programmatic changes to accommodate this policy so long as said changes apply to all participating RDHAPs and applicable administrative

and systematic processes are updated accordingly pursuant to Exhibit E, Additional Provisions, Section 5.b, Governing Law of the DMC contract(s).

DMC plans shall inform all providers of this new policy as necessary once approved materials are shared by DHCS and posted to the Denti-Cal website. All materials developed by the DMC plans for the purposes of notifying their contracted providers of their options shall be submitted to DHCS for review and approval prior to distribution. If you have any questions with respect to this letter, please contact DHCS at [dmcdeliverables@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:dmcdeliverables@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Kalanie Lipscomb, Chief  
Contract Management & Policy Unit  
Medi-Cal Dental Services Division