




HEALTH CARE
AUTHORITY

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Letter of Direction #71

Date: December 7, 2025
To: Turquoise Care Managed Care Organizations
From: Dana Flannery, Director, Medical Assistance Division (MAD) 
Subject: Dental Rates Increase
Title: State Fiscal Year 2026 Dental Rates Increase

The purpose of this Letter of Direction (LOD) is to provide guidance and direction to the Turquoise Care Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) regarding the implementation of dental rate increases.

Background

To help build and protect the dental provider health care delivery network, the Health Care Authority (HCA) is implementing a 16% rate increase for the top ten dental codes utilized in pediatric dental services. These increases will be effective 01/01/2026. HCA updated the dental fee schedule based on available funding.

Top 10 Codes Utilized in Pediatric Dental Services

The ten most frequently used dental procedure codes for pediatric dental services have been identified based on dental claims data from State Fiscal Year 2024, including both fee-for-service (FFS) and encounter claims. The rate increase will apply to services provided to both adult and child populations.

Dental codes that are included in the rate increase are identified in the table below:

Codes	Description	Current Rate	16% increase	Rate effective 01/01/2026
D1120	Dental Prophylaxis - child	\$34.27	\$5.48	\$39.75
D0230	Intraoral - periapical each additional radiographic image	\$9.43	\$1.51	\$10.94
D0220	Intraoral - periapical first radiographic image	\$11.81	\$1.89	\$13.70
D1208	Topical application of fluoride - excluding varnish	\$19.57	\$3.13	\$22.70
D0120	Periodic oral evaluation - established patient	\$24.48	\$3.92	\$28.40
D0150	Comprehensive Oral Evaluation	\$37.64	\$6.02	\$43.66
D0272	Bitewings - two radiographic images	\$22.03	\$3.52	\$25.55
D0274	Bitewings - four radiographic images	\$31.80	\$5.09	\$36.89
D1206	Topical application of fluoride varnish	\$19.78	\$3.16	\$22.94
D1351	Dental Sealant Per Tooth	\$24.99	\$4.00	\$28.99

This increase applies to each provider's contracted rates with each MCO. This includes rates negotiated between MCOs and sub vendors or subcontractors. Any rate paid to providers for services to Turquoise Care members must use the Medical Assistance Division (MAD) FFS rate as the minimum rate.

Rate Increase Implementation

The rate increases described in this LOD have been calculated and considered as a component of the MCO capitation rates that will be effective January 1, 2026. HCA directs MCOs that no rates shall be reduced as a result of this LOD or rate table. If an MCO identifies a potential reduction, they are directed to contact HCA. HCA expects MCOs to maintain current levels of reimbursement for providers who may be contracted above the rate increases outlined in this LOD.

MCOs are directed to implement changes associated with these instructions, including system changes and provider contract negotiations as needed no later than 60 days from the date of issuance of this directive.

This LOD will sunset when all rate increases have been implemented, contract amendments finalized, and claims have been adjusted.