



Prior Authorization Process for Dental Therapeutic Services Provided with Level 4 Anesthesia

All dental therapeutic services in children 0 through 6 years of age, when provided with Level 4 anesthesia (deep sedation/general anesthesia) require prior authorization (PA). The process for obtaining PA for fee-for-service clients differs from the process for clients in dental and medical managed care plans.

The following PA overview outlines dental provider responsibilities in the PA process. The overview also provides specific instructions unique to each process.

Fee-for-Service Prior Authorization Process:

1. THSteps dental provider requests prior authorization from TMHP using PA on the Portal

- Submits all required documents and information
- Includes a completed Texas Health Steps Dental Mandatory Prior Authorization Request form
- Includes treatment plan
- Identifies where services will be provided; in-office or outpatient (any setting other than in-office)
- Identifies if anesthesia services will be provided by a dental anesthesiologist or a medical anesthesiologist
- Includes Criteria for Dental Therapy under General Anesthesia Form (22 point form)
- Includes narrative describing additional factors that were considered in the course of the treatment plan
- Includes current radiographs and/or photos, or narrative describing the inability to obtain current radiographs and/or photos

2. TMHP reviews PA request

3. THSteps dental provider forwards TMHP PA information to anesthesia provider

Managed Care Authorization Process:

The managed care process for prior authorization is broken down based on the setting where the service is provided; in-office or outpatient (any setting other than in-office).

In-office Setting:

1. Appropriate THSteps dental provider requests prior authorization from the DMO to include the following:
 - Submits all required documents and information
 - Includes treatment plan
 - Identifies the therapeutic dental treatment that will be provided in the in-office setting
 - Identifies if anesthesia service will be provided by a dental anesthesiologist or a medical anesthesiologist
 - Includes Criteria for Dental Therapy Under General Anesthesia Form (22 point form)
 - Includes narrative describing additional factors that were considered in the course of the treatment plan
 - Includes current radiographs and/or photos, or narrative describing the inability to obtain current radiographs and/or photos
 - Includes any additional forms or documentation required by the individual DMO
2. DMO reviews PA request and notifies dental provider of determination
3. Appropriate THSteps dental provider forwards DMO letter of prior authorization as follows:
 - If dental anesthesiologist; dental provider forwards DMO letter of prior authorization to dental anesthesiologist
 - If medical anesthesiologist; dental provider forwards DMO letter of prior authorization to medical anesthesiologist, medical anesthesiology group, or directly to the health plan according to individual health plan's preference
4. Medical anesthesiologist or medical anesthesiology group submits DMO letter of prior authorization to MCO for PA of anesthesia services, unless the dentist has already submitted the DMO PA directly to the health plan. The MCO may request supporting clinical documentation as part of the prior authorization for general anesthesia.

Outpatient Setting:

1. Appropriate THSteps dental provider requests prior authorization from the DMO to include the following:
 - Submits all required documents and information
 - Includes treatment plan
 - Identifies the outpatient facility where the therapeutic dental treatment will be provided

- Identifies if the anesthesia service will be provided by a dental anesthesiologist or a medical anesthesiologist
 - Includes Criteria for Dental Therapy Under General Anesthesia Form (22 point form)
 - Includes narrative describing additional factors that were considered in the course of the treatment plan
 - Includes current radiographs and/or photos or narrative describing the inability to obtain current radiographs and/or photos
 - Includes any additional forms or documentation required by the individual DMO
2. DMO reviews prior authorization request and notifies dental provider of determination
3. Appropriate THSteps dental provider forwards DMO letter of prior authorization as follows:
- If dental anesthesiologist: dental provider forwards DMO letter of prior authorization to dental anesthesiologist
 - If medical anesthesiologist or medical anesthesiology group; dental provider forwards DMO letter of prior authorization to outpatient facility where services will be provided, or directly to the health plan according to individual health plan's preference
4. Outpatient facility
- Submits DMO letter of prior authorization to MCO for PA of anesthesia service on behalf of medical anesthesiologist and/or medical anesthesia groups, unless the dental provider has already submitted the DMO PA directly to the health plan. The MCO may request supporting documentation as part of the prior authorization for general anesthesia.
 - Confirms prior authorization has been approved for all possible anesthesia providers and anesthesia provider groups.

THSteps dental providers should consult the TMPPM or individual DMO provider manuals for additional information on dental benefits. Providers should contact MCOs directly for additional information or questions related to medical anesthesia services.