

March 14, 2014
MB# 14-005

MEDICAID BULLETIN

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TO: Providers Indicated
SUBJECT: Adult Emergency Dental Service

Effective on April 1, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will reinstate the Adult Emergency Dental benefit. Medicaid enrolled dentists may seek reimbursement from the Fee-for-Service Healthy Connections program for emergency dental services to adults. The new adult benefit adds extractions for the relief of severe and acute pain or an infectious process in the mouth for adults age 21 and over that are eligible for Healthy Connections dental benefits. This new benefit is in addition to the services currently covered for the treatment of exceptional medical services (Section 4.07 of the Dental Office Reference Manual) and for the provision of emergency medical CPT procedures by oral surgeons (Section 4.06 of the Dental Office Reference Manual).

Dental claims for adult extractions with a date of service on or after April 1, 2014 must include the word "EMERGENCY" on the claim form in field 35 (comments section). Additionally, pre-payment review is required for more than four (4) extractions per member per date of service. Providers are required to document the medical necessity for the emergency services in the patient's medical record and submit this documentation along with the claim to DentaQuest, who will review the submitted documentation prior to paying for the service(s). Prior authorization is optional.

SCDHHS will be monitoring the utilization of extractions in adult beneficiaries to ensure that services are being rendered in emergency situations only.

Please refer any questions or concerns regarding this bulletin to the DentaQuest Provider Call Center at 888-307-6553. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid Program.

/s/
Anthony E. Keck
Director