

Bridging Gaps: Exploring Medicaid Criteria for Dental Anesthesia Coverage

Hanan AbdelGilil¹, B.S., DDS Candidate, Priyanshi Ritwik², B.D.S., M.S

1. School of Dentistry, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, Tx 77054, USA
2. Department of Pediatric Dentistry, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, Tx 77054, USA.

INTRODUCTION

Numerous state-specific factors significantly influence the eligibility of children for general anesthesia during dental treatment in the United States. Although these factors are designed to facilitate access to care, they have also introduced challenges, resulting in a gap in care delivery. This pilot project evaluated the variations in state Medicaid criteria for determining eligibility for pediatric dental treatment under general anesthesia (GA). Medicaid criteria and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) were retrieved from the websites of ten states, selected based on their dental schools' participation in the BigMouth Consortium.

MCOS by State

New York	Minnesota	Wisconsin	Texas
Affinity Health Plan AmeriChoice of NY Bronx WellCare of NY Excelus Health Now Healthfirst Hudson Health Plan MVP Health plan MetroPlus Health Plan NY Quality Healthcare Corp. (Fidelis Care) United Healthcare	Blue Plus Health Partners Itasca Medical Care Medica Metropolitan Health Plan Prime West Health Systems South Country Health Alliance Ucare DentaQuest	Care Wisconsin Health Plan CompCare Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire Independent Care Health Plan (iCare) Molina Healthcare Network Health Plan Trilogy Health Insurance UnitedHealthCare My Choice Wisconsin Anthem BCBS WI	Aetna Better Health Blue Cross Blue Shielf Community First Health Plans Dell Children's Health Plan Driscoll Children's Health Plan Molina Healthcare Superior Healthplan Wellpoint Texas Amerigroup Community Healthchoice Cook's Children Dental plan FirstCare El Paso Health Parkland Community Health Plan RightCare Superior Healthplan Texas Children's Health Plan UnitedHealthCare DentaQuest MCNA Dental
Massachusetts	Pennsylvania (National Plans)	Louisiana	
MassHealth: Primary Care Clinician Plan WellSense Health Plan Fallon Community Health Plan Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan	Aetna Better Health UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Coventry Cares Health Plan AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania AmeriHealth Northeast Keystone First	Dental Quest MCNA Dental	
Iowa	Pennsylvania (Local Plans)	California	
Iowa Total Care Molina Healthcare of Iowa Wellpoint Iowa Dental Carriers (Delta Dental + MCNA Dental)	UPMC for You Health Partners of Philadelphia Geisinger Gateway Health Plan	Access Dental Plan Health Net of California Liberty Dental Plan	
		Colorado	
		Denver Health Medicaid Choice Rocky Mountain Health Plans Prime Health First Colorado (via DentaQuest)	

Criteria for Eligibility by State

STATE	Criteria
Louisiana	Preauthorization by narrative, keep copy op report once every 6 months
Texas	GA medicaid < 7 years old, if >7y: needs to meet the 22-point threshold
Iowa	Coverage based on AAPD guidelines
New York	Based on medical necessity
Colorado	Based on medical necessity
California	Prior authorization
Pennsylvania	No authorization, retain narrative
Massachusetts	Full coverage, no restrictions listed
Minnesota	AAPD guidelines, determination of medical necessity
Wisconsin	Needs preauthorization - has limitations

