

Network Provider Update

To: Medi-Cal network participants

November 2023

From: Melinda Kjer
Director, Provider Relations and Contracting

Subject: **All Plan Letter 23-028: Dental Services – Intravenous Moderate Sedation and Deep Sedation/
General Anesthesia Coverage**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently issued [All Plan Letter \(APL\) 23-028](#), “Dental Services – Intravenous Moderate Sedation and Deep Sedation/General Anesthesia Coverage.” We are sharing a summary of this APL with you to ensure you are aware of the information, and you can apply the information to your practice or facility operations, where appropriate.

APL 23-028 informs managed care plans (MCPs) such as Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan about responsibilities for covering intravenous (IV) moderate sedation and deep sedation/general anesthesia in conjunction with dental services when medically necessary.

APL summary

- The APL advises MCPs to provide prior authorization for IV moderate sedation and deep sedation/general anesthesia for dental services using criteria provided in [Attachment A](#).
- Assisting providers and members with prior authorization is a form of MCP care coordination that helps avoid undue delays.
- APL23-028 lists examples of covered services that are related to dental procedures that require IV moderate sedation and deep sedation/general anesthesia but are provided by individuals other than a dental provider. These include any required prescription drugs, laboratory services, physical examinations, outpatient surgical center services, and inpatient hospitalization services.
- The APL advises MCPs to reimburse facility fees and coordinate all necessary non-anesthesia covered services.
- APL 23-028 lists settings where members may receive dental treatment under IV moderate sedation and deep sedation/general anesthesia. These settings include hospitals, accredited ambulatory surgical centers, dental offices, and specified types of community clinic.
- Authorization for general anesthesia provided by a physician anesthesiologist must be part of the authorization for inpatient admission.

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL. Please see the APL itself for additional background and the complete requirements. The full text of APL 23-028 may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2023/APL23-028.pdf> (Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.)

If you have questions about applying a benefit to Blue Shield Promise members, please contact Blue Shield Promise Provider Services via Live Chat after logging in at www.blueshieldca.com/provider or call **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.