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**Letter of Direction #16**

**Date:** September 27, 2024

**To:** Turquoise Care Managed Care Organizations

**From:** Dana Flannery, Director, Medical Assistance Division 

**Subject:** Dental Procedure Code (D1354)- Application of Silver Diamine Fluoride

**Title:** Silver Diamine Fluoride Provided by Dental Providers

The purpose of this letter of direction is to provide the Turquoise Care Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) with information on supplemental reimbursement guidance for the dental procedure code: D1354, *Interim Caries Arresting Medicament – per tooth* for the application of silver diamine fluoride 38% Silver, by a Dental provider.

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has designated Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) as a breakthrough therapy for the arrest of caries in children and adults. SDF will benefit patients by providing tooth decay treatments and helping MCO members achieve better oral health that will impact their overall health.

1. **Member Eligibility Requirements:** MCOs must allow and reimburse services for members. Requirements and indications must be documented in the member’s medical record.
  - a. Evidence of a comprehensive dental examination by a licensed dental practitioner.
    - i. For children who are too young to receive conventional restorative treatment in a dental chair.
    - ii. For members who are unable to undergo conventional dental treatment.
    - iii. For older adults who have limited access to dental facilities.
    - iv. For people with special needs who are unable to cooperate with dental treatment.
2. **Criteria for application of SDF:** This code allows for compensation to a medical service provider who is treating persons with a conservative treatment of an active, non-symptomatic carious lesion with no pulpal exposure by topical application of a high caries arresting or inhibiting medicament and without mechanical removal of sound tooth structure, example: xerostomia, severe early childhood caries.
  - a. Maximum of 2 treatments per tooth per 12-month period.
  - b. May use on up to 5 teeth per session on one claim.
  - c. Maximum of 4 treatments per tooth in a lifetime.

3. **Provider Requirements:**

- a. Dental service providers must be enrolled as New Mexico Medicaid providers with at least one of the following provider types and specialty codes:
    - i. 421- Dentist
    - ii. 422- Dental Clinic, Rural Health
    - iii. 423- Dental Hygienist
    - iv. 313/192- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)/Medical and Dental
  - b. Dental service providers must ensure a comprehensive dental examination by a licensed dental practitioner with consent to treat prior to the application of medicament and indication of tooth number of tooth/teeth treated.
4. **Prior Authorizations:** A prior authorization is not required for this service.
5. **Billing:** Managed Care Organization must allow and reimburse for D1354, Interim Caries Arresting Medicament –per tooth for Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) treatment. Dental providers will bill on an American Dental Association (ADA) Dental Claim form. They must follow the eligibility requirements and will be reimbursed at no less than the dental fee schedule rate published at <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/providers/fee-schedules/>.
- a. FQHC’s, non-hospital based Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Indian Health Service (IHS) & eligible Tribal 638 may bill using the UB 04 Institutional claim with the appropriate revenue code and procedure code D1354 as part of their visit/encounter. SDF application services must follow the eligibility requirements and will be reimbursed according to their appropriate encounter/Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rates.
  - b. MCOs must allow and reimburse providers who have met the requirements and provide SDF services from October 1, 2024. MCOs are directed to implement changes associated with these instructions, including system changes and provider contract negotiations as needed, no later than 90 days from the date of issuance of this directive.
    - i. For Centennial Care 2.0, MCOs should not recoup SDF services, D1354, associated with these instructions for dates of service July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

This LOD will sunset upon inclusion in the New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 8.310.2.