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**MassHealth**  
**Acute Outpatient Hospital Bulletin 18**  
**May 2007**

**TO:** Acute Outpatient Hospitals Participating in MassHealth  
**FROM:** Tom Dehner, Acting Medicaid Director   
**RE:** Dental Services Exempted From the Physical Presence Requirement

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**Background**

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the physical oversight requirements for dentists in dental residency programs. Certain services no longer require physical oversight from supervisory dentists.

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**Clarification**

Hospitals may submit claims for the services outlined below, when performed by dental residents employed by the facility. These services are no longer subject to the requirements of 130 CMR 450.275.

Dental regulations will be revised at a later date to reflect these changes.

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**Exempted Services**

The following services no longer require physical oversight from supervisory dentists.

Diagnostic procedures:

- oral exams
- taking and evaluating radiographs
- periodontal probing
- ordering necessary tests
- ordering and interpreting consultations

Preventive procedures:

- prophylaxis
  - scaling
  - topical fluoride application
  - dental sealants
  - prescribing systemic and topical fluorides
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***Exempted Services***  
(cont.)

Restorative dentistry on primary and permanent teeth:

- posterior composites/glass ionomers
- amalgam restorations
- stainless-steel crowns
- anterior crowns
- full cast crowns
- basic prosthetic services (both removable and fixed)
- pulp therapy
- simple endodontics
- fabrication and insertion of space maintainers

Basic pediatric dental surgical procedures on primary and permanent teeth:

- extraction of carious teeth
- extraction of teeth damaged by trauma
- extraction of teeth as a result of unsuccessful endodontic procedures
- extraction of mobile teeth secondary to periodontal disease
- extraction of over-retained primary teeth
- extraction of teeth for orthodontic purposes
- suturing of intraoral lacerations less than 2 cm

Miscellaneous:

- routine treatment planning
  - simple periodontal disease treatment
  - administering nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia
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***Questions***

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to [providersupport@mahealth.net](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net), or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.

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