



Provider Bulletin

JANUARY 2024
Volume 40, Number 2



THIS ISSUE

pg 1 Update – Anesthesia Permits

SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST

Learn the latest Medi-Cal Dental news and information by signing up for our Medi-Cal Dental Fee-For-Service Provider email distribution list [here](#).

TRAINING SEMINARS

To reserve a spot online or view a complete list of training seminars, go to the [Provider Training Seminar Schedule](#).

PROVIDER ENROLLMENT

To enroll in the Medi-Cal Dental Program, or check the status of an existing enrollment application, click [here](#) or email PAVE@dhcs.ca.gov.

Update – Anesthesia Permits

The Dental Practice Act permits dentists to use varying forms of anesthesia on outpatients if they meet specific licensing criteria. As of January 1, 2022, [Senate Bill 501](#) (Glazer, Ch. 929, Statutes of 2018) made changes to state law concerning the use of some forms of anesthesia. Please note the following:

General Anesthesia (GA)

- General Anesthesia is defined as a drug-induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation.
- Deep Sedation is defined as a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients cannot be easily aroused but respond purposefully following repeated or painful stimulation.
- Existing Medical General Anesthesia (MGA) permit holders can continue to practice under the terms of their permit, until it expires.
- Dentists must submit an [Application for General Anesthesia](#) permit to provide deep sedation and general anesthesia for dental patients aged seven years and older.

Continued on pg 2



Medi-Cal Dental

dental.dhcs.ca.gov



- MGA permit holders who administer deep sedation or general anesthesia to pediatric patients **under age seven** must apply to the Dental Board of California and maintain a [Pediatric Endorsement](#) for MGA permit by submitting a [Courtesy Application for Pediatric Endorsement for MGA Permit](#) form and [Documentation of Deep Sedation and General Anesthesia or Moderate Sedation Cases for Pediatric Endorsement \(PE-1\)](#) form.

Moderate Sedation (MS)

- The term “conscious sedation” has been replaced with “moderate sedation.” **Moderate sedation** is defined as a drug-induced state where a patient’s consciousness is depressed, but they can still respond purposefully to verbal commands and meet certain criteria.
- Dentists will need to obtain a [pediatric endorsement](#) for moderate sedation permit prior to administering moderate sedation to a patient **under 13 years of age**.
- A dentist who orders the administration of moderate sedation to a patient 13 years of age or older shall be physically present in the treatment facility while the patient is sedated.
- While the conscious sedation permit for children has changed to moderate sedation permit, the [Oral Conscious Sedation \(OCS\) permit for adults](#) remains the same.

Pediatric Minimal Sedation

- The California Dental Board has introduced a new permit called [Pediatric Minimal Sedation](#) (PMS).
- “Minimal Sedation” is defined as a drug-induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands. Although cognitive function and coordination may be impaired, airway reflexes, ventilatory, and cardiovascular functions are unaffected.
- This new PMS permit is required for dentists who want to use or order pediatric minimal sedation on patients **under the age of 13**.
- The existing permit for using OCS on minors will no longer be issued.

Continued on pg 3



Existing Permits

- Providers who have permits for GA, MGA, Conscious Sedation (CS), or OCS for minors that were issued or renewed before January 1, 2022, they can continue to use those permits according to their existing terms until they expire.

What this means for providers?

- Effective January 22, 2024, [PAVE Portal](#) will be updated to collect the appropriate permit information for new applicants and the Supplemental Change Form is also able to collect updated permit information for currently enrolled providers.
- Claims with dates of service after March 22, 2024 will need to have the applicable permits in the provider's file to receive payment. The following are Adjudication Reason Codes (ARCs) associated with sedation permits:
 - ARC 013E - No General Anesthesia/Medical General Anesthesia permit on file.
 - ARC 013F - No Moderate Sedation permit on file.
 - ARC 013G - No Pediatric Endorsement for General Anesthesia/Medical General Anesthesia permit.
 - ARC 013H - No Pediatric Endorsement for Moderate Sedation permit (ages 0-6).
 - ARC 013I - No Pediatric Endorsement for Moderate Sedation permit (ages 7-12).
 - ARC 013J - No Oral Conscious Sedation permit on file.
 - ARC 013K - No Pediatric Minimal Sedation permit on file.
- DHCS will gather status of all anesthesia permits from the Dental Board and will load the information into PAVE by January 29, 2024. Providers can check their PAVE accounts to confirm their permit information is correct by logging directly into the PAVE Portal and going to the account tab.

Continued on pg 4



- To update permit information, providers can submit a Supplemental Change Form in the [PAVE Portal](#). In the **Accounts tab**, click on the **Update Account** icon for the account you wish to update. Select which information needs to be changed, then click **Apply Changes**.

For assistance with updating your information in PAVE, please see the [PAVE Frequently Asked Questions](#) or submit an Inquiry Form on [PED's website](#) under “Provider Resources”, email PAVE@dhcs.ca.gov, or message through the [PAVE](#) portal. Providers can also contact Medi-Cal Dental toll-free at (800) 423-0507. The Telephone Service Center Representatives are available to answer phone calls between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., PT, Monday through Friday.