



JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR

ALAN LEVINE, SECRETARY

May 20, 2005

Dear Medicaid Orthodontic Provider:

Effective July 1, 2005, orthodontic providers must use the twenty-six (26) point Initial Assessment Form (IAF) instead of the twelve (12) point IAF. The IAF is to be completed by the orthodontic provider at the initial evaluation of the recipient.

The IAF is:

- Designed for use as a guide by the provider in the office to determine whether a prior authorization (PA) request should be sent to the Medicaid orthodontic consultant;
- A means by which the orthodontic provider may communicate to Medicaid's orthodontic consultant all the distinctive details pertaining to an individual case; and
- To be sent to Medicaid's orthodontic consultant in borderline situations with diagnostic photographs to determine if the provider should proceed with a prior authorization request.

The conditions listed in the IAF should be considered in the context of whether they contribute to a disabling malocclusion. The provider required to circle the applicable conditions and total the recipient's index score.

A score of 26 or greater may indicate that treatment of the recipient's condition may qualify for Medicaid reimbursement and the orthodontic provider should submit a prior authorization request for approval of orthodontic services. A score of 26 or greater on the IAF is not a guarantee of approval. It is used to determine whether diagnostic records should or should not be sent to the orthodontic consultant. The provider must submit the IAF as a diagnostic record component with the prior authorization request.

A score of less than 26 indicates that treatment of the recipient's condition may not qualify for Medicaid reimbursement, and request for prior authorization may be denied. Special or mitigating circumstances, such as deep bites with palatal trauma or occlusion related temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMD) should be described in detail on the back of the IAF.

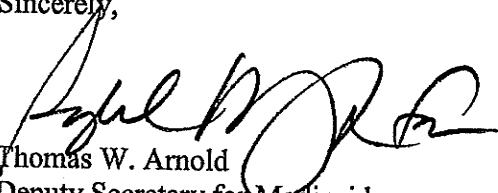


Dear Medicaid Orthodontic Provider
Page Two

Please refer to the *Dental Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook*, January 2005 edition, pages 2-15 and 2-16 for other information pertaining to the Initial Assessment Form. Instructions on how to score the IAF is included in Appendix A, page A-2 of the handbook. A photocopy of the IAF is also included in the handbook for your convenience.

We appreciate the services you provide to Florida's Medicaid recipients and look forward to our continued relationship.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Arnold
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid