



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF MEDICAID BUSINESS AND POLICY

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John A. Stephen
Commissioner

Richard E. Kellogg
Interim Director

October 24, 2005

Dear Doctor:

The NH Medicaid Program is announcing a change to its recommended dental periodicity schedule. Currently the schedule recommends that a child's first visit to a dentist take place by age 3. Beginning November 1, 2005 all families with children enrolled in Medicaid will be encouraged to bring their child to a dentist by 1 year of age and after that to continue with preventive dental visits every six months, or as recommended by the dentist or physician. In accordance with this change, parents will begin receiving the Department's six-month reminder notice when a child is six months old, instead of the current practice of sending reminders every six months beginning at age three years.

This change is consistent with the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Periodicity Schedule for Examination, Preventive Dental Services, Anticipatory Guidance and Oral Treatment for Children. It is also consistent with the American Academy of Pediatricians recommendations for pediatric oral health care.

Many dentists and physicians have observed serious dental problems in some young children and have wished that they had had the opportunity to intervene earlier. I am hopeful that lowering the age for beginning periodic examinations will support dentists in providing important early intervention both by educating parents and in detecting early risk factors for dental disease.

The appropriate code for submitting claims for periodic examination of all children continues to be D0120, except in unusual situations requiring extensive examination, diagnosis, and documentation, which would warrant utilization of other codes.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at 271-5857.

I remain greatly appreciative of your caring for children enrolled in NH Medicaid and Healthy Kids Gold programs.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Snow, DMD
NH DHHS Dental Director