



BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT: DENTAL COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

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Alaska Medicaid covers medically necessary behavior management (CDT code D9920) for recipients under age 21 if the recipient is developmentally disabled, mentally ill, or is uncooperative and difficult to manage to the extent that, without behavioral management, dental services cannot be rendered or the patient is at risk of self-injury. Typically, behavior management is reserved for recipients whose documented behavior requires the assistance of at least one additional dental professional staff member throughout the duration of treatment.

Medical necessity for behavior management for each date of service must be documented in the recipient's record and must include, but is not limited to:

- Recipient name
- Recipient date of birth
- Specific behavior or condition warranting behavior management
- Specific behavior guidance techniques attempted and failed prior to employing behavior management
- Specific behavior management technique(s) applied
- Amount of additional time required for providing behavior management services
- Informed consent for behavior management services, signed by a parent, guardian, or recipient's legal representative

Behavior management is limited to one (1) unit of service per dental visit.

Basic behavior guidance techniques such as positive reinforcement, parental presence or absence, and voice control methods, must be attempted and determined to be unsuccessful prior to employing more extensive methods of behavior management. Behavior guidance techniques are considered an integral part of services provided, do not meet the requirements for behavior management, and are not separately reimbursable.

Alaska Medicaid does not cover behavior management:

- Ø For recipients over 21 years of age
- Ø When behavior management services require less than 7 minutes of additional time
- Ø During a visit for which payment was made under 7 AAC 110.155 for general anesthesia

Alaska Medicaid may request medical records for determination of medical necessity in instances where behavior management techniques are reported.