



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 1023

DATE: July 29, 2011

TO: Iowa Medicaid Dentists, Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers

ISSUED BY: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

RE: Orthodontia Treatment

EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2011

Medicaid allows coverage of orthodontia treatment only for the most severe, handicapping malocclusions. The "Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment to Establish Treatment Priority" developed by J. A. Salzmann, D. D. S. has been used in reviewing prior approval requests with an index score of 21 and above qualifying for approval. Effective September 1, 2011, an index score of 26 and above will be used in authorizing prior approval. This new score is consistent with the orthodontia criteria for the hawk-i program and similar to criteria used by other state Medicaid programs.

Medicaid reimbursement will continue to be allowed until completion of the orthodontia treatment for those members who received prior approval under the previous criteria and who have already begun treatment.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally 515-256-4609 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.