



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Med-QUEST Division
Medical Standards Branch
P. O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

July 3, 2002

TO: Dentists and Oral Surgeons M02-14

FROM: Aileen Hiramatsu, Med-QUEST Division Administrator

SUBJECT: COVERAGE OF ELECTIVE TOOTH EXTRACTIONS

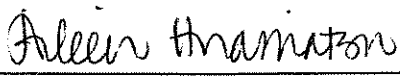
Currently, the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) covers elective tooth extractions for children. Prior authorization is required for elective extractions of third molars. Dentists and oral surgeons have questioned the value of coverage of elective tooth extractions and asked that the MQD revise the policy.

The following revision to the policy will be effective thirty (30) days after the date of this memorandum.

- Tooth extraction coverage is limited to cases involving symptomatic teeth WITH clinical symptoms and/or signs of pathology, including acute or chronic pain, inflammation, infection or peri-radicular radiographic evidence of defect.
- Elective tooth extractions are not covered by Medicaid.

Elective tooth extraction is the extraction of asymptomatic teeth without symptoms and/or signs of pathology. It includes the removal of teeth for orthodontic purposes and the extraction of other asymptomatic teeth without clinical evidence of pathology, including third molars in teens and young adults.

For questions or clarification regarding this policy, please contact Dr. Mark Greer, MQD's Dental Consultant at 832-5700.


Med-QUEST Division Administrator