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What kind of dentist do I need?

Most individuals with disabilities will need no extra support at the dentist office except a little more time and understanding. Others (or Other individuals) may need more help with medicines to complete a visit or help to be "safely asleep" to allow for dental services.

There are dentists for everyone.

We call this Levels of Care.

You and/or your family members or support staff can make decisions about what is best for you. Your dentist or dental hygienist can help as well. Sometimes individuals can complete a service with no extra help, but may need a higher level of care for other services. It all depends on you or the needs of the individual you support.

Please find the pre-visit form on the menu at the left, which will help you figure out what level of care you or the individual you support needs.

You may utilize the provider search tool (link in the menu at the left) to locate a provider that meets the needs of yourself or the individual you support based on the level of care that is identified while completing the Pre-Visit Form.

Your Medical Assistance (Medicaid) or Managed Care Organization staff have been trained, will understand the level of care need and will help you to identify a dentist who provides that.

Send this form to your dentist before the visit or bring it with you.

This form may be printed and completed or downloaded to your computer and completed.

Special Needs Dentistry Levels of Care Paradigm Table

| Level of Care Classification | Anesthesia Certification Level | Additional Dental Care / Anesthesia Necessary | Severity of Special Needs for Member Treatment | Level of Care Description |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <i>Level 1 Care</i> | <i>No Certification</i> | A dentist may provide dental care with little or no treatment modification. Additional time may be required to complete dental treatment due to behavior management techniques employed | The special needs of the patient do not require any special modalities other than increased time to provide the dental care. Dentists providing Level I care <u>may</u> use traditional behavior management techniques to promote treatment. | Community-based dental care for lpf kxf wcu' who are cooperative for dental treatment and are not fearful of the dentist require little or no additional accommodations to complete dental treatment. |
| <i>Level 2 Care</i> | <i>Restricted Permit- Level II certification</i> | A dentist may provide dental care while administering nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia to the patient | The special needs of the patient with less cooperation and increased dental anxiety require the dentist to utilize behavior management techniques in conjunction with nitrous oxide to allow successful completion of treatment. | Community-based care for lpf kxf wcu' who "are somewhat cooperative during a dental visit. Patient may need some behavioral support, desensitization, and nitrous oxide/oxygen. |
| <i>Level 3 Care</i> | <i>Restricted Permit- Level I certification</i> | A dentist may provide dental care utilizing conscious sedation and/or nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia. The patient maintains their own airway while vital signs are continually monitored. | The special needs of the patient are not responsive to Level 1 or Level 2 care modalities and/or historically have been unsuccessful in treatment attempts at Level 1 or Level 2. These patients require conscious sedation using pharmacological agents to complete treatment. | Community or specialty clinic-based care for plpf kxf wcu' who are historically not successfully treated under Level 1 or 2 conditions. These patients require some level of sedation to complete treatment due to behavioral issues. |
| <i>Level 4 Care</i> | <i>Unrestricted Permit Certification</i> | A dentist may provide dental care while an anesthesiologist administers general anesthesia or deep conscious sedation. The anesthesiologist continuously monitors the patient and their airway while the dentist performs the dental treatment. | The special needs of the patient are not responsive to Levels 1, 2 or 3 care and/or historically have been unsuccessful in treatment attempts at Levels 1, 2 or 3, and/or the treatment required is so extensive and /or urgent that the patient requires general anesthesia or deep conscious sedation for successful treatment. | Patient cannot complete dental visit in a typical community practice due to resistant or difficult behaviors or medical complexity. Person will need specialized setting such as an ambulatory surgical center or hospital to complete comprehensive dentistry using deep conscious sedation or general anesthesia. A licensed anesthesiologist may provide anesthesia services for a treating dentist in a dental office setting. |