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## ABOUT AHCA

### THE FLORIDA AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA or Agency) was statutorily created by Chapter 20, Florida Statutes. The Agency champions accessible, affordable, quality health care for all Floridians. It is the state's chief health policy and planning entity. AHCA is the single state agency responsible for administering Florida's Medicaid program which currently serves over 2.8 million Floridians. As such it develops and carries out policies related to the Medicaid program. The Medicaid program is administered by the Agency's Division of Medicaid Services.

### AHCA'S MISSION

AHCA's mission is Better Health Care for All Floridians.

## ABOUT eQHEALTH SOLUTIONS

### COMPANY INFORMATION, MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

eQHealth Solutions is a non-profit, multi-state health care quality improvement, medical cost management and health information technology company providing a wide range of effective and efficient solutions for our clients. Services include care coordination, utilization review, quality improvement, wellness services and quality review for home and community based waiver services. eQHealth Solutions is a leader in assisting providers to embrace health information technology (HIT) to improve the quality of care provided to patients / recipients.

### Corporate Mission

*"Improve the quality and value of health care by using information and collaborative relationships to enable change"*

### Corporate Vision

*"To be an effective leader in improving the quality and value of health care in diverse and global markets"*

### Corporate Values

- ▶ *Pursuit of innovation;*
- ▶ *Integrity in the work we do;*
- ▶ *Sharing the responsibility for achieving corporate goals;*
- ▶ *Treating people with respect;*
- ▶ *Delivering products and services that are valuable to customer;*
- ▶ *Fostering an environment of professional growth and fulfillment;*
- ▶ *Engaging in work that is socially relevant; and*
- ▶ *Continuous quality improvement.*

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## **eQHEALTH SOLUTIONS LOCATIONS AND CLIENTS**

### **Florida**

eQHealth Solutions was awarded the contract in 2011 by Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA or Agency) to serve as its Medicaid Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). On behalf of the Agency, our Florida location provides diverse medical cost and quality management services in a variety of inpatient and non-inpatient settings. Our main office is located in the Tampa Bay area.

### **Louisiana**

Under a federal contract with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) since 1986-2014, our office in Louisiana serves as the state's Medicare QIO. As the Louisiana QIO, eQHealth Solutions assisted providers in achieving significant improvements quality of care in areas such as heart attack and pneumonia care, nursing home quality, home care delivery, prevention and wellness and adoption of electronic health records. Starting in 2014 as a QIO-Like entity, we provide quality improvement field – based work as a subcontractor to a regional Medicare QIN-QIO.

In 2009, we began our Senior Medicare Patrol grant with the federal Administration for Community Living (formerly AoA) to develop and implement anti-fraud efforts in Louisiana with additional awards covering the states of Florida and Mississippi. This work is supported through our QIO infrastructure.

### **Mississippi**

Under contract with the State of Mississippi's Division of Medicaid (DOM) since 1997, eQHealth Solutions serves as the utilization management and QIO to provide health care quality and utilization management services in a variety of inpatient and non-inpatient settings. We also perform All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Group validation review.

### **Illinois**

Under contract with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), since 2002, eQHealth Solutions serves as the Medicaid QIO, providing acute inpatient quality of care and utilization management, DRG and APR-DRG validation review.

### **Colorado**

Under Contract with The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), eQHealth Solutions provides services for the ColoradoPAR (prior authorization request) program, effective September 1, 2015. Together, eQHealth and HCPF will serve Medicaid members by focusing on and implementing HCPF's mission to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.

## **Vermont**

Since June 2015, eQHealth has been contracted with the State of Vermont, Department of Health Access, as the utilization management and the care coordination software development vendor for a CMS advance planning document grant.

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## ACCESSIBILITY AND CONTACT INFORMATION

This section provides information about Authorization of Dental Services and provides important contact information. We also provide a quick reference guide of web site links and toll free telephone and facsimile (fax) numbers.

### SUBMITTING PRIOR AUTHORIZATION (REVIEW) REQUESTS

#### Methods of Submission

All prior authorization (PA) review requests are submitted to eQHealth Solutions (eQHealth) through our proprietary, HIPAA-compliant web-based system, eQSuite, at <http://fl.eqhs.org>.

Both methods of request submission are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

#### WHEN YOU NEED INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

AHCA and eQHealth are committed to delivering exceptional service to our customers. We offer a variety of ways for you to efficiently obtain the information or assistance you need. In the following sections we identify, by topic or type of assistance needed, useful resources.

For questions or information about the Comprehensive Medicaid Utilization Management Program, the following resources are available:

- ▶ Resources available on our Website: <http://fl.eqhs.org>:
  - ◆ Codes: Under the Dental tab
  - ◆ This Provider Manual: Dental Services Provider Manual
  - ◆ Training presentations: Copies of training and education presentations are available under the “Training/Education” tab.
- ▶ eQHealth Solutions customer service staff: Toll free number 855-444-3747.

#### Questions about Submitting PA Requests or about Using eQSuite

- ▶ *eQSuite User Guide for eQReview for Dental Services* available on our website: <http://fl.eqhs.org>

#### Checking the Status of a PA Request or Submitting an Inquiry about a Request

- ▶ Check the status of a previously submitted PA request: Use your secure eQSuite login and check the information in your review status report.
- ▶ Submit an inquiry using eQSuite’s helpline module. You may use it when you have a question about a previously submitted PA request.

Both options are available 24 hours a day. Although using eQSuite is the most efficient way to obtain information about PA requests, you also may contact our customer service unit.

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## eQHealth Solutions Customer Service

For general inquiries, inquiries that cannot be addressed through eQSuite, or if you have a complaint, contact our customer service staff.

The toll free customer service number is: 855-444-3747 (855-444-eqhs). Staff is available 8:00AM – 5:00PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, excluding the following State-observed holidays:

- ▶ New Year's Day
- ▶ Memorial Day
- ▶ Labor Day
- ▶ Thanksgiving Day
- ▶ Martin Luther King Day
- ▶ Independence Day
- ▶ Veterans Day
- ▶ Christmas Day

If you call during non-business hours, you will have the option of leaving a message. Calls received after business hours are answered by our customer staff the following business day.

If you have a complaint and would prefer to submit it in writing, send it to:

eQHealth Solutions, Inc.  
Florida Division  
Attention: Customer Service Department  
5802 Benjamin Center Dr.  
Suite #105  
Tampa, FL 33634

## SUBMITTING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

It sometimes will be necessary to submit supporting information for authorization requests. We provide two methods for submitting supporting documentation. You may:

- ▶ Upload and directly link the information to the eQSuite review record, or
- ▶ Download eQHealth's fax cover sheet(s) and fax the information to our toll free fax number: 855-427-3747.

## Requesting a Reconsideration of a Medical Necessity Denial

When eQHealth renders an adverse medical necessity determination for all or some of the requested services, the attending or treating physician, the hospital or the recipient may request reconsideration. Requests for reconsideration may be submitted:

Through eQSuite, or

- ▶ By:
  - ◆ Phone: toll free number 855-977-3747
  - ◆ Fax: toll free number 855-677-3747
  - ◆ U.S. mail, sent to:

A reconsideration request form is posted on <http://fl.eqhs.org>, Dental tab, Forms and Downloads folder.

eQHealth Solutions, Inc  
Florida Division  
5802 Benjamin Center Dr.  
Suite 105  
Tampa, FL 33634

## QUICK REFERENCE: CONTACT INFORMATION

- ▶ eQHealth Solutions (eQHealth)
  - ◆ Submit a prior authorization request
    - Web site (24x7): <http://fl.eqhs.org>
    - By fax (only for physicians without eQSuite access): toll free 855-440-3747
  - ◆ Submit additional information (24x7):
    - Upload and directly link the information to the eQSuite record, or
    - Download the eQHealth cover sheet and fax the information to our toll free number 855-427-3747
  - ◆ Submit a reconsideration review request by:
    - Web: <http://fl.eqhs.org>
    - Phone: 855-977-3747
    - Fax: 855-677-3747
    - U.S. mail, sent to:  
eQHealth Solutions, Inc  
Florida Division

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Attention: Customer Service Department  
5802 Benjamin Center Dr.  
Suite 105  
Tampa, FL 33634

- ◆ Obtain information about a previously submitted prior authorization request:  
eQSuite's provider review status reports or helpline module: available 24x7
- ◆ Customer service: 855-444-3747
  - Speak with a customer service representative 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday except State-approved holidays.
  - Leave a message 24x7.
  - U.S. mail, sent to:  
eQHealth Solutions, Inc  
Florida Division  
Attention: Customer Service Department  
5802 Benjamin Center Dr.  
Suite 105  
Tampa, FL 33634



## REVIEW REQUIREMENTS AND SUBMITTING PA REQUESTS

eQHealth Solutions performs prior authorization (PA or review) for certain prosthodontic and orthodontic services. This section provides summary information about the following authorization requirements:

- Services subject to review
- Submitting PA requests
- Supporting documentation
- Review request submission timeframes
- Review completion timeframes

### Supporting Documentation Requirements and Submission

#### Required Documentation

Documentation substantiating the need for orthodontic services must be submitted with the review request. For prosthodontic services eQHealth may, at its discretion, request supporting documentation including but not limited to radiographs. When documentation is required or is requested by eQHealth, review will not proceed until it is received.

#### How to Submit Supporting Documentation

The supporting documentation should be submitted electronically using one of two methods:

- Upload and directly link the information to the eQSuite™ review record.
- Download eQHealth's fax cover sheet(s) and submit the information using our 24 x 7 accessible toll-free fax number: 855-409-1521.

For providers who choose to fax the documentation, we provide downloadable special fax cover sheets. Each fax cover sheet includes a bar code that is specific to the particular recipient and for the type of required information. For example, there is a specific cover sheet for the Initial Assessment Form (IAF) required for orthodontic services. The review-specific fax cover sheets are available for download and printing as soon as the review request is completely entered in eQSuite™ and submitted for review.

**DO NOT REUSE OR COPY BAR CODED FAX COVER SHEET(S) – THEY ARE SPECIFIC TO THE REVIEW TYPE FOR A PARTICULAR RECIPIENT AND ARE SPECIFIC TO THE TYPE OF DOCUMENT.**

If any required documentation cannot be sent electronically (for example, non-digitalized radiographs), submit it by mail to:  
eQHealth Solutions, Inc. Florida Division 5802 Benjamin Center Drive, Suite #105 Tampa, FL 33634

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## Review Request Submission Timeframes

### Types of Review Requests

There are four types of review requests. One is applicable only to orthodontic services. For each type there is a specified timeframe for submitting the request.

**Admission** (initial authorization): Prior authorization is required. Submit the PA request at least ten business days prior to the planned service date.

**Modification:** This is *applicable only for orthodontic services*. It is the review type when an extension of the previously approved maximum service units (visits) is needed within an active/current authorization period. Submit the request as soon as the need for additional units is identified, before additional visits are incurred and before expiration of the current authorization period. (Please note that the authorization period cannot be extended. Only medically necessary units (visits) beyond 24 may be authorized.)

**Retrospective:** This type of review is applicable only for recipients who are determined to be retroactively eligible for Medicaid and the recipient has been discharged from care (services are completed).

- Submit the review request as soon as eligibility is confirmed and within one year of the retroactive eligibility determination date. The claim should be submitted within 12 months of the eligibility determination date. Please allow sufficient time for completion of the review prior to submission of the claim.
- If services are in progress when the retroactive eligibility is determined, submit an admission review request.

**Reconsideration review:** This review is performed after an adverse determination if the treating provider and/or recipient (or parent or legal guardian) requests review by a second eQHealth dental reviewer. Submit the request within 10 business days of the date of the outcome notification.

### Considerations if a Recipient Transfers One Provider to Another During Active Orthodontic Treatment

If a recipient transfers from one provider to another the services rendered by the new provider must be prior authorized.

- Submit an admission review request when the recipient's eligibility is active or when it is determined retroactively and the services are in progress at the time eligibility is confirmed.
- Submit a retrospective review request if the recipient's eligibility is determined retroactively and (s)he has been discharged from care when eligibility is granted.

Because orthodontic services have a once per lifetime benefit limit, eQSuite™ will prompt the practitioner to provide information about the recipient's prior utilization history, if known.

## Review Completion Timeframes

eQHealth completes reviews within specific timeframes. The timeframe depends on the type of review. The review completion timeframe is measured from the date eQHealth receives all required information.

- Admission review requests: 3 business days at 1<sup>st</sup> level review and 2 additional business days for 2<sup>nd</sup> level review
- Modification review requests: 3 business days at 1<sup>st</sup> level review and 2 additional business days for 2<sup>nd</sup> level review
- Retrospective review requests: 20 business days
- Reconsideration review requests: 3 business days from the date eQHealth receives the request.

## DENTAL SERVICES REVIEW PROCESS

In this section we explain the prior authorization (PA or review) process for prosthodontic and orthodontic services. The type of service determines whether supporting documentation always is required or whether it may be requested by eQHealth. The type of review request influences the review request submission timeframe. The process for an admission (initial), modification and retrospective review is the same and is explained in the first section. The process for reconsideration requests is somewhat different and is described separately.

### General Review Requests

The process explained in this section is applicable for admission (initial), modification and retrospective review requests.

### Dental Service Line Items

When providers submit PA requests, each CDT © code for which authorization is requested must be itemized. That is, each code must be entered in eQSuite™ as a separate line item. For each item, the service “from and thru” dates must be entered. Instructions regarding the assignment of these dates are provided within eQSuite™. The number of requested service units also must be recorded when the system does not set the default limit.

- *Prosthodontic services:* The default number of units is one and cannot be edited.
- *Orthodontic services:* Except as noted below for procedure code D8670 (periodic orthodontic treatment visits) and for modification review requests, the maximum number of units requested cannot exceed the maximum allowable benefit.
- For code D8670, when an admission review is requested for a recipient who has not previously received orthodontic services, a maximum of 24 visits (units) over 36 months may be requested.

For retrospective reviews involving D8670, where orthodontic services have been completed, the number of units must equal the total units (visits) provided.

For a modification review request, specify the number of units (visits) exceeding those currently approved.

*There is a special consideration for the orthodontic procedure code D8999 (unspecified orthodontic procedure). A PA request for code D8999 always must include an authorization request for procedure code D8670 (periodic orthodontic treatment visit). If the request does not include code D8670 review will not be performed.*

## **Automated Administrative Screening**

When the review request is entered in eQSuite™ the system applies a series of edits to ensure authorization by eQHealth is required and that all Medicaid eligibility requirements and policies are satisfied. If there is an eligibility issue or the services are not subject to review, the system will inform and prompt the user to cancel the review.

## **Clinical Reviewer (1<sup>st</sup> Level) Screening of the Request**

When there are no review exclusions identified by eQSuite™ the system routes the request for first level reviewer screening and review. The clinical reviewer evaluates the entire request for compliance with applicable policies that cannot be applied by the automated process and for compliance with supporting documentation requirements.

### **Screening for Compliance with Medicaid Policies**

If the clinical reviewer identifies an issue with the request related to Medicaid policy requirements, a technical determination is rendered and review does not proceed. The requesting provider is notified electronically through eQSuite™. Since a technical determination is rendered for an administrative reason (not a clinical or medical necessity reason) it is not subject to reconsideration.

### **Screening for Compliance with Supporting Documentation Requirements**

Supporting documentation must be submitted with all orthodontic services requests. The documentation must be clear, legible, current, and must comply with all applicable Medicaid policies.

If all required supporting documentation is not received with the request, the clinical reviewer “pends” the request. The provider is notified electronically that the information must be received within five business days. If it is not received within five business days the review request is suspended and the requesting provider is notified electronically. If the information is submitted at a later date eQHealth will re-open the review and the review will be performed for services from the date the information is received.

### **Clinical Information Screening**

The clinical reviewer screens the submitted clinical information to ensure it is sufficient to complete the medical necessity review. When additional clinical information is required or when the available information requires clarification, the first level reviewer pends the review request and specifies the information or clarification needed.

### **Pended and Suspended Review Requests**

When the clinical reviewer pends a review request:

- An advisory email is generated to the requesting provider. The provider accesses the review record to determine what additional information is needed.
- The requested information must be submitted within five business days.

If eQHealth does not receive the information within five business days of the notification, the review request is suspended and no further review processing occurs.

- The provider is notified through the system status report that the request is suspended.
- If the information is submitted at a later date, eQHealth re-opens the request and reviews the services beginning from the date the complete information was received.

## First Level Medical Necessity Review Process

When all information has been submitted and the clinical information screening is completed, the first level reviewer performs the medical necessity review. When performing the review the clinical reviewer evaluates all clinical information recorded in eQSuite™ and evaluates all submitted supporting documentation information.

### Approvals

First level reviewers apply approved criteria to determine whether the services are medically necessary or otherwise allowable under Medicaid policy. If the criteria are satisfied the clinical reviewer renders an approval determination for each line item, for the number of units requested and for the requested time frame.

### Approval Notifications

Approval notifications are generated for all prosthodontic and orthodontic services determined to be medically necessary.

**Provider notifications:** Electronic notifications are generated for the treating practitioner/provider.

- When the determination is rendered, the requesting provider's secure web-based provider status report is updated. The provider may access the report to see the determination.
- We also post for the provider a draft provider notification (letter). The notification specifies the authorized service(s), the number of units and the authorization period. Providers may access the notification by logging onto eQSuite™. The notifications may be downloaded and printed.
- Within one business day of the determination, a final copy of the determination notification is electronically posted. The final notification includes the prior authorization (PA) number.
- The approval information is provided to the Medicaid fiscal agent.
- The fiscal agent provides the prior authorization (PA) number to eQHealth.
- Within 24 hours of our receipt of the PA number, eQHealth updates the provider's review status report to include the PA number.

**Recipient notifications:** The recipient or the child's parent or legal guardian receives written notification via mail within one business day of the determination.

### Referral to a Dental Reviewer

First level reviewers may not render an adverse determination. They refer to a dental peer reviewer any authorization request they cannot approve. When the first level reviewer refers a review request to a dental reviewer the requesting provider's Web-based status report is updated and displays the referral status.

### Second Level (Dentist) Review Process

The dentist peer reviewer (PR) uses clinical experience, knowledge of generally accepted professional standards of care and judgment.

#### Approval Determinations and Pended Reviews

For each service the first level reviewer was unable to approve the PR determines the medical necessity of the service and the number of units and service duration requested.

- *Approval on the basis of available information:* When the available information substantiates the medical necessity of the service(s), units and service duration, the PR approves them as requested and the review is completed. Notifications are issued.
- *When additional information is required:* If a PR is not able to approve the service(s) on the basis of the available information, the PR attempts to speak with the treating practitioner to obtain additional or clarifying information. If the PR is able to authorize the service(s) on the basis of the additional or clarifying information obtained, an approval determination is rendered. The review is complete and notifications are issued.
- *PR pended review requests:* If the treating practitioner is not available when the eQHealth dentist calls, the PR may issue a pend determination at that time. The particular information required is documented in the review record. The provider receives an electronic notification of the pended review.
  - The information must be provided within five business days.
  - If the requested information is not received within five business days, the PR renders a determination on the basis of the information that is available.

#### Adverse Determinations

Only a PR may render an adverse determination. As noted in the preceding section, prior to rendering an adverse determination the PR attempts to discuss the request with the treating practitioner. There are two types of adverse determinations: denial and partial denial.

#### Denial

The dentist peer reviewer may render a (full) medical necessity denial of one or more line items.

- The requesting provider receives immediate electronic notification, via the eQSuite™ review status report, of the denial. eQHealth will also post a draft notification of the determination in eQSuite™. The provider may access it by using the eQSuite™ log on. The notification may be downloaded and printed.
- Within one business day of the determination, the final written notification of the denial is posted electronically for the provider in eQSuite™. Written notifications also are mailed to the treating provider and to the recipient or the recipient's parent or legal guardian.

### Partial Denial

The dentist peer reviewer also may render a partial denial for the services. When a partial denial is rendered, some of the services are approved and some are denied. Therefore, there is not a complete denial of the services.

For partial denials:

- Notifications are issued to the parties as described in the preceding section, “Denial”.
- For the services that are approved, the approval information is provided to the fiscal agent. The provider’s eQSuite™ status report and the final notification are updated with the PA number as previously described for approval determinations.

### Reconsideration Reviews

The provider and recipient or parent or legal guardian may request a reconsideration of an adverse determination. The written notification of the adverse determination includes information about the right to request a reconsideration and how to request one.

- The reconsideration must be requested within 10 business days of the date of the denial notification.
- Requests may be submitted through eQSuite™ or by fax, phone or mail.
- The requesting party should submit additional or clarifying information.

### Administrative Screening of Reconsideration Requests

When a reconsideration request is received it is screened to ensure it complies with policies. It must be received within the required timeframe and must be submitted by a party who is entitled to request a reconsideration. If the request does not conform to these policies:

- The request is denied.
- Notification is sent to the party who requested the reconsideration.

### Processing Valid Reconsideration Requests

Only a dentist peer reviewer may conduct a reconsideration review. When a valid reconsideration request is received:

- Any additional information submitted by fax or mail is linked to the review record. Information submitted by phone is documented in eQSuite™.
- The review is scheduled for a peer reviewer who was not involved in the original determination.

The PR evaluates all available information including previous information and all additional information submitted. The review is performed according to the process described for all second level reviews.

### Types of Determinations and Determination Implications

The reconsideration determination may be one of the following:

- **Modify:** Some of the services are approved and some continue to be denied.
- **Reverse:** The services are approved as originally requested. The original adverse determination is over-turned.
- **Upheld:** The original denial is maintained.



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When the reconsideration determination results in a modification or reversal of the original determination:

- The determination and notification will specify the approved services, units and duration.
- The approval information is transmitted to the fiscal agent. When a PA number was not previously issued, the provider's review status report is updated with the PA number within 24 hours of the date eQHealth receives it from the fiscal agent.

When the determination is to modify or uphold the original adverse determination, no further reconsideration is available. However the recipient (or parent or legal guardian) may request a fair hearing.

### **Completion Timeframe and Notifications**

Reconsideration reviews are completed within three business days of eQHealth's receipt of a valid and complete request. Notifications are issued to the parties by the methods and within the timeframes described for all second level review determinations.

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## **Fraud and Abuse Reporting**

eQHealth immediately notifies the Agency of any instance of potential fraud or abuse. The Agency provides direction in what, if any, alteration in the review process is required as a result of the reported incident.

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