



PROVIDER *bulletin*

June 18, 2021

Dear Provider:

DHCS wishes the managed care plans to share the following with the network providers. Below are the links to the articles. To view previous Educational Articles please go to the DHCS website at <http://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/dur/edarticles.aspx>.

Learning Objectives:

- Review recommendations of the American Dental Association (ADA) and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) regarding routine management of acute dental pain, including the recommendations for non-opioid analgesics as first line agents.
- Describe patient factors to consider when prescribing medications for the relief of acute dental pain.
- Understand the risks associated with using opioid medications and medication combinations to manage acute dental pain.

Key Points:

- Both ADA and AAPD recommend non-opioid analgesics for the management of acute dental pain.
- NSAIDs have been shown to be more effective at reducing pain than opioid analgesics and are therefore recommended as first-line therapy for acute pain for patients without risk factors for NSAIDs. Combination therapy using NSAIDs and acetaminophen has also been associated with more treatment benefit and fewer side effects than opioid-containing regimens.
- If use of opioids for management of acute dental pain is warranted, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that clinicians prescribe the lowest effective dose of immediate-release opioids and should prescribe no greater quantity than needed for the expected duration of pain severe enough to require opioids (three days or less will often be sufficient and more than seven is rarely ever needed).

Follow the link below to access the complete DHCS FFS Education Article concerning recommendations for the Management of Acute Dental pain.

https://files.medi-cal.ca.gov/pubsdoco/dur/Articles/dured_30903.pdf

Sincerely,

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