

- ▶ Q & A—Comments from an Administrator..... 1
- ▶ Medi-Cal’s Treatment Approval Process 2
- ▶ Interview with Lumina’s Chief Dental Officer 2

LUMINA

HEALTHCARE™

*Leaders in On-Site
Dental & Other
Healthcare*

800-373-5400

**PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO
INDIVIDUALS WHERE THEY LIVE & WORK**

**MORE FACILITIES ARE BENEFITING FROM LUMINA’S
PODIATRY PROGRAM!**
CONTACT US TODAY TO SCHEDULE A VISIT



Lumina is proud to welcome the following care facilities to our family:

Alto Lucero Transitional Care-Santa Barbara	Las Palmas Estates-Turlock
Clairemont Healthcare & Wellness Centre-San Diego	Madera Rehab & Nursing Center-Madera
Country Place Assisted Living-Antioch	Merced Nursing & Rehabilitation Center-Merced
Eagle Crest-Carmichael	Modesto Post Acute Center-Modesto
Golden Living Chateau-Stockton	Nueva Vista Mental Health Center-Morgan Hill
Highland Springs Care Center-Beaumont	Palm Village Retirement Community Health Care-Reedley
La Casa Mental Health Rehab Center-Long Beach	Regent Villa Retirement-Long Beach
La Paloma Healthcare Center-Oceanside	Sky Park Gardens-Sacramento
La Sierra Care Center-Merced	West Glenn Manor-Westminster

The Administrator’s Q&A

Q.—What is your biggest challenge regarding ancillary care and how do you solve it?

A.— There are some services that are ancillary and understandably not something that we can reasonably maintain an in-house staff for. These include dentistry, podiatry, vision testing, balance testing, etc. We prefer to work with strong companies that specialize in these areas—it makes things easier.

Q.— What is the most common question asked by family members re: dental care, and how do you respond?

A.— I am often asked if the dental work suggested by the dentist is really necessary, considering the parent’s age? The condition of our teeth and gums really is critical to good overall health. This has been established by volumes of scientific research and was confirmed by the Surgeon General of the United States. Also, we do not want a relatively minor problem such as a cavity to go unattended and later develop into an abscess or, even worse, something life-threatening or requiring hospitalization.

FYI: Medi-Cal's Treatment Approval Process

Q: How long does it normally take to receive an approval from Medi-Cal for dental care and what does the process involve?

A: Medi-Cal requires that most* dental treatment be submitted for approval prior to starting care. Once submitted, the process takes approximately 4-5 weeks.

Part of the approval process is the dental screening that is performed at your facility by the Denti-Cal screening dentist. The screener evaluates the patient's medical and oral condition and makes a determination whether or not the recommended treatment meets the clinical criteria of Denti-Cal. When an approval is received, all treatment must be completed within 6 months.

If the treatment is denied, we review the reason for the denial and submit an appeal to Denti-Cal, if possible. The two most common types of denials are based on "functional limitation or health condition of the patient" or "Per clinical screening, patient does not wish extractions or any other dental services at this time". If you disagree with the reason for the denial, please inform Lumina and provide supporting documentation. We are more than happy to resubmit the authorization on behalf of your resident.

*The exceptions to the pre-auth requirement are: dental exams, x-rays, routine cleanings, emergency extractions (limit 3), denture adjustments, repairs and tissue conditioners.

MISSION STATEMENT

Lumina HealthCare strives to improve the quality of life through on-site provision of health care services by professional, compassionate health care providers.



Interview with Dr. Dennis Yee, Lumina's Chief Dental Officer:



"There have been some exciting developments in Oral Cancer Detection which are especially important for our patient population" said Dr. Yee. He noted "demographically the fastest-growing segment of the US population is the geriatric group age 65 and older." Dr. Yee referred to a study with 52,774 recorded oral biopsies in which

neoplastic lesions were diagnosed in 11.7% of the patients age 65 – 84 and 18.6% among patients age 85 and older. "Early oral cancer and precancer detection can result in prolonged survival, so it is important to catch oral cancer in its early stages. It can be a matter of life and death. When found early the survival rate for oral cancer increases to over 80% versus 20% with distant metastases."

Dr. Yee continued, "instead of focusing primarily on lesions that may already be oral cancer during dental

examinations, brush testing of small more innocuous looking spots can allow the dentist now to also test for unhealthy cells, years before they can progress to cancer." Dr. Yee explained "the brush test is a noninvasive procedure in which the dentist uses a small brush to take a tissue sample from the mouth that is sent to a laboratory for computer assisted analysis.

"If a spot tests positive for precancer, it can then be treated by the resident's physician, and oral cancer has been prevented." Dr. Yee added, "In many cases this happens years before it can even start." Clinicians note it is analogous to how the Pap smear and colonoscopy are credited with preventing many thousands of cervical and colon cancers.

Dr. Yee concluded, "the Lumina team is proud to make this valuable service available to your residents."



For assistance with scheduling our Providers for dental and podiatry services, contact:



5220 Pacific Concourse Boulevard,
Suite 120
Los Angeles, CA 90045
800-373-5400
www.luminahealthcare.com
info@luminahealthcare.com

Northern California:

Gina Medeiros
Regional Manager, Patient Services

Phone: 209-475-9300

E-mail:
gmedeiros@luminahealthcare.com

Southern California:

Marco Alonso
Regional Manager, Patient Services

Phone: 888-958-6462

E-mail:
malonso@luminahealthcare.com