



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Office of Health Services
Medical Care Programs

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
MCO TRANSMITTAL NO. 48
December 9, 2003**

To: Managed Care Organizations
From: Susan Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services
Subject: Departmental Review in Orthodontic Appeals

The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify the dental components required by the Department before the Department's Dental Director can complete an orthodontic review. These components comply with the recommendations made by the American Board of Orthodontics.

The provision of orthodontic services for enrollees younger than 21 years old is a requirement clearly defined in the HealthChoice regulation: COMAR 10.09.67.06 (4) An MCO shall provide orthodontic care when the condition causes dysfunction and the case scores at least 15 points on the Handicapping Labio-Lingual Deviations Index No. 4 (HLLD).

Beginning January 2, 2004, whenever an enrollee contacts the Department through the HealthChoice Enrollee Action Line to request assistance with an MCO denial of orthodontia, the MCO must submit the following dental components to the Department:

- HLLD score sheet compiled by the attending orthodontist
- HLLD score sheet from the MCO
- Extra oral and intra oral photographs
- Study models, properly occluding upper and lower with wax bite
- Cephalometric head film with analysis
- Panoramic or full series periapical radiographs
- A summary of the clinical examination with diagnosis and treatment plan

The above components must be submitted together as a package to the Complaint Resolution Unit within 15 working days of the request. In the event the complete package of dental records is not submitted within the required timeframe, the Department will order the MCO to provide the orthodontia. If you appeal that decision, please be advised that the records you have not timely provided cannot be presented on appeal to support a denial. If an MCO has a pattern of non-submission or untimely submission, it may be subject to fine or sanction.

Any questions about this transmittal should be directed to Nadine Smith, Division Chief, Outreach and Care Coordination at 410-767-6859.

