

U.S. Department  
of Transportation

United States  
Coast Guard



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COMDTINST 6620.1I  
19 OCT 1994

## COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 6620.1I

Subj: DENTAL CARE FOR NONACTIVE DUTY BENEFICIARIES

1. PURPOSE. This instruction sets policy for providing dental care to nonactive duty beneficiaries in Coast Guard clinics.
2. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, commanding officers of headquarters units, Commander, Coast Guard Activities Europe, and Commander, Coast Guard Activities Far East shall ensure compliance with the provisions of this instruction.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. COMDTINST 6620.1H is canceled.
4. BACKGROUND.
  - a. Coast Guard dental clinics are staffed and funded for active duty care in support of the operational mission. However, dental officers in Coast Guard clinics are permitted to treat nonactive duty beneficiaries on a space-available basis. The 1985 DOD Authorization Act amended Section 1077 of Title 10, United States Code, to authorize the provision of routine dental care to dependents on a space-available basis in all military treatment facilities. The law also elevated the priority of active duty dependents health care to a level above that of retired personnel.
  - b. With the advent of the active duty Dependents Dental Plan (DDP) in August 1987, many dependents of active duty members who previously received routine dental care in Coast Guard dental facilities elected to receive this

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care in the private sector. As a result of the expansion of DDP benefits in 1993, approximately ninety percent of the eligible CG families are currently enrolled in the DDP.

- c. Title 32, CFR, Part 199.13 states, "Except for emergency treatment and services incidental to non-covered services, dependents enrolled in the active duty Dependents Dental Plan may not obtain those services which are benefits of the Plan in military dental care facilities. Enrolled dependents may continue to obtain non-covered services from military dental care facilities subject to the provisions for space-available care." Because DDP now covers virtually all routine and specialty services, enrolled dependents are essentially prohibited from receiving non-emergency care in CG clinics. Therefore, some CG dental facilities have the ability to extend routine dental care to all eligible beneficiaries, including the dependents of retirees.

## 5. DISCUSSION.

- a. Responsibilities For Selection of Cases. Case selection shall be governed in part by advice received from the Senior Dental Officer and the Chief, Health Services Division. The commanding officer of the unit is responsible for approving all cases selected.
- b. Criteria For Selection. The following shall be among the criteria used for selecting nonactive duty beneficiaries for dental care:
  - (1) the dental care must not interfere with the treatment of active duty members.
  - (2) dependents of active duty members shall have a higher priority for care than retirees and the dependents of retirees.
  - (3) no routine dental care may be provided to dependents of active duty members enrolled in the active duty Dependents Dental Plan if such care is a benefit of the Plan; and
  - (4) only routine dental care may be provided to the dependents of retirees.

Note: Routine dental care is limited to examinations, x-rays, preventive services, and operative dentistry. Those services not included in the definition of routine dental care are orthodontics, endodontics, prosthodontics, oral surgery/exodontia, and periodontics.

c. Monitoring Of Cases Selected.

- (1) Space is defined as "available" when the waiting period between appointments for active duty members does not exceed seven working days. This seven-day guideline shall be used as the indicator of the maximum amount of nonactive duty care provided.
- (2) Senior dental officers shall monitor active duty reappointment times to ensure compliance. With MLC(k) approval, this reappointment time standard may be relaxed in OUTCONUS clinics where the active duty populations may be low and access to Delta Dental providers difficult.

d. Costs. Costs of this program are to be defrayed from clinic funds, except that private sector laboratory costs for active duty dependents must be borne by the patient. Private sector laboratory costs for retired personnel will be defrayed from clinic funds, per Article 11-A-3.b. of the Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1(series). Prosthetics appliances may be fabricated in-house at no cost to any eligible nonactive duty patient, providing that the time required for such fabrication does not jeopardize or delay active duty care.

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