

DENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Adult Medicaid Dental Program Refined and Expanded

The adult Medicaid dental program has been modified by legislation to include basic dental care for eligible recipients. The old program provided for emergency extractions and necessary x-rays for that service. Encounters were limited to two per year and only painful and infected teeth could be extracted. The new Medicaid plan allows, additionally, for basic preventive, diagnostic and restorative services, including endodontia and full and partial dentures. Claims are paid from the existing Medicaid reimbursement schedule. A table with allowable codes is listed below. While funding for this program is limited and does not include payment for porcelain or gold crowns or fixed bridges, it does provide an opportunity for adult Medicaid recipients to access better care. There has, so far, been a very positive response from Wyoming dentists, with over 140 submitting claims. The Wyoming Oral Health Coalition, through Coalition member, Sen. Cale Case, proposed this legislation. The original expanded plan, amended by the last legislature, placed a \$400 individual cap on services unless treatment was deemed medically necessary by the Wyoming Department of Health Staff Dentist. The amended legislation passed this year removed the cap, while leaving the funding level at four hundred dollars per eligible recipient and also removed the “medically necessary” provision.

Medicaid Dental Advisory Committee

In an effort to gather administrative input from Medicaid providers, the Department has formed an advisory committee to work with the Dental Programs Administration. These dentists will meet quarterly to hear progress reports and make recommendations on administration of the EqualityCare and adult Medicaid programs. Members were jointly appointed by Dr. Rod Hill, WDA President and Dr. Grant Christensen, Staff Dentist of the Wyoming Department of Health. The first meeting of this committee was held in Cheyenne on April 28 with discussions about the bid process for the “carve-out” Medicaid dental program and allowable reimbursement codes for the adult program.

Members of the advisory committee are Drs. Brad Kincheloe, Jay Cole, Mike Keim, Brian Cotant, Roy Paulson, Paul Dona and Rod Hill. The next meeting of this committee will be in the fall and will be concerned with the Medicaid administrator RFP and the selection process.

Medicaid Dental “Carve-out” Claims Administration

The Wyoming Department of Health and its Office of Healthcare Finance have decided to “carve out” the administration of the dental claims portion of Medicaid. The decision to separate the claims administration for the dental EqualityCare program was made primarily to improve dental claims service and to provide a more “user-friendly” interface for dental providers with the claims administrator. Dental claims are paid according to American Dental Association treatment codes (CDT) and require a different level of understanding by those entering codes or staffing call centers than might be expected of medical claims administration.

While dental claims make up a relatively small percentage of overall Medicaid claims, their unique procedures and codes seem to make it difficult for medical claims administrators to “connect” with dental providers, particularly in problem resolution. Customer service and customer satisfaction seem to be related to attention to dental claims detail that can be provided by a dental claims specific administration. Other states that have recently converted to a “carve-out” program verify this assumption. The Director of the Department of Health and his staff completely support this concept.

There have been many requests from the current provider network for a dental provider-specific administration which would expedite claims processing and problem resolution. Achieving these efficiencies should improve access to dental care by the EqualityCare recipients.

The Office of Healthcare Finance has developed a Request for Proposals document to be used by potential bidders. At least six other states have successful “carve out” programs, and while each has a unique set of problems, all of the “carve-out” states seem pleased with their new situations. The successful bidder will be selected by the State of Wyoming Office of Medicaid and will begin claims processing on July 1, 2008.

Reimbursable Adult Medicaid Dental Codes

COVERED DENTAL CODES—DIAGNOSTIC

D0120 Periodic Oral Evaluation
D0140 Limited Oral Eval-problem focused
D0150 Comprehensive oral evaluation
D0210 Intraoral- complete series
D0220 Intraoral- periapical first film
D0230 Intraoral- periapical each additional film
D0270 Bitewing- single film
D0272 Bitewing- two films
D0274 Bitewing- four films
D0330 Panoramic film

COVERED DENTAL CODES—PREVENTIVE

D1110 Prophylaxis- adult (12 years and older)

COVERED DENTAL CODES—RESTORATIVE

D2140 Amalgam- one surface
D2150 Amalgam- two surfaces
D2160 Amalgam- three surfaces
D2161 Amalgam- four or more surfaces
D2330 Resin-based composite- 1 surface anterior
D2331 Resin-based composite- 2 surfaces anterior
D2332 Resin-based composite- 3 surfaces anterior
D2335 Resin-based composite- 4 or more anterior
D2391 Resin-based composite-1 surface posterior
D2392 Resin-based composite-2 surface posterior
D2393 Resin-based composite-3 surface posterior
D2394 Resin-based composite-4 or more

COVERED DENTAL CODES—ENDODONTICS

D3110 Pulp cap- direct
D3120 Pulp cap- indirect
D3220 Therapeutic pulpotomy
D3221 Pulpal Debridement
D3310 Anterior (excluding final restoration)
D3320 Bicuspid (excluding final restoration)
D3330 Molar (excluding final restoration)

Important Changes! Please read!

REMOVABLE PROSTHETICS CODES

ADULTS RECEIVE ONLY ONE COMPLETE DENTURE IN A LIFETIME.

D5110	Complete denture – maxillary
D5120	Complete denture - mandibular
D5130	Complete denture - immediate maxillary
D5140	Complete denture - immediate mandibular
D5730	Reline Complete maxillary denture (chair-side)
D5731	Reline Complete mandibular denture (chair-side)
D5740	Reline Maxillary Partial Denture (chair-side)
D5741	Reline Mandibular Partial Denture (chair-side)
D5750	Reline Maxillary Denture (lab)
D5751	Reline Mandibular Denture (lab)
D5760	Reline Maxillary Partial Denture (lab)
D5761	Reline Mandibular Partial Denture (lab)