

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20032-0247

IN REPLY REFER TO

MAY 21 1995

Medical Assistance Program
Transmittal # 96-06

To: All Participating Dental Providers

Subject: Reimbursement Policy

Over the past several months routine audits of payments have been conducted by the Commission on Health Care Finance, Office of Surveillance and Review staff. These audits have revealed that some dentists have been billing improperly for certain procedures. As a result of these audits, the Commission is issuing this transmittal to reiterate the reimbursement policy for the following procedure codes:

Full Mouth Examination Procedure Code 01001

Full mouth exams will be reimbursed once every twelve months and should include prophylaxis, mouth examination (with charting), fluoride application, bitewing x-rays and oral hygiene instruction.

Office Visit Procedure Code 09435

Office visits should be billed as a separate service and should not be billed in conjunction with other services on the same day such as fillings, extractions or root canal therapy.

Consultation Procedure Code 09310

A consultation should not be billed for routine dental services and should not be billed in conjunction with other services on the same day.

Emergency Treatment Procedure Code 00131

This procedure is an unauthorized one time treatment to control bleeding or relieve pain (without extraction). This procedure should not be billed in conjunction with other services such as fillings, root canal therapy, etc. on the same tooth on the same day.


Dental Sealants Procedure Code 01351

The Commission on Health Care Finance follows guidelines established by the American Dental Association regarding frequency on pit and fissure sealants. An article published in The Journal of the American Dental Association (May 1987) stated in part: "With complete retention, sealed surfaces are virtually impervious to decay. Studies using chemically activated sealants report 92% to 98% retention after 1 year....". The Commission will, therefore, reimburse for this service once every twelve months.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, or need additional information, please contact Gary Turner, at (202) 727-9300.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Paul Offner
Commissioner