

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director - Medicaid Director

Transmittal No.: 13-07

TO: District of Columbia Dentists Serving Children in the DC Medicaid Program

FROM: Linda Elam, Ph. D, M.P.H.
Senior Deputy Director - Medicaid
Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Elam", is written over the printed name and title.

DATE: **MAR 27 2013**

SUBJECT: New Dental Procedures available for DC Medicaid Children and CDT Coding Changes for the Topical Application of Fluoride

The information in this transmittal applies to dental providers serving children in the District of Columbia Medicaid program, especially children less than three years of age, and to all dental providers who furnish supplemental fluoride for their DC Medicaid patients. This transmittal outlines new preventive services that are reimbursable for dentists, with a special focus on services targeted at young children and changes in fluoride supplementation billing.

All DC children eligible for the Medicaid program are entitled to receive the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services benefit. EPSDT, also known as the DC HealthCheck program, is a mandatory Medicaid benefit and includes dental services that cover a comprehensive oral exam and dental cleaning every six months, as well as any needed diagnostic or treatment services identified by the provider.

Dental Care for District Children—Current Statistics and Guidelines

In 2011, 59% of the District of Columbia's children under age 21 enrolled in DC Medicaid received some type of dental care from a dentist. However, only 19% of children under the age of three received some type of dental care from a dentist. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recommends that children visit a dentist at the time of the eruption of the first tooth, or no later than 12 months of age, and then every six (6) months thereafter.

DHCF is working with the provider community and advocacy groups in an effort to improve the oral health of the District's children, especially young children, by increasing access to dental providers and improving dental utilization rates. If you are a dental provider who serves children in the DC Medicaid program, we need your help to ensure District children get the oral health services they need.

New Reimbursable Dental Procedures for Young Children

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Early Childhood Caries (ECC) is the most prevalent communicable disease impacting our children. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) also recognizes ECC as a "significant public health problem." Fortunately, ECC is preventable and treatable with early preventive measures and early detection and treatment. In an effort to increase the number of young children seen by dentists and to prevent and minimize the effects of ECC, DHCF has added two new Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes to the fee-for-service DC Medicaid fee schedule—D0145 (Oral Health Assessment for Children Under Three (3) Years of Age) and D1206 (Topical Application of Fluoride Varnish).

Oral health assessments are a required part of every primary care well-child visit for young children so that primary care providers can assist in identifying children who need dental care. However, an oral health assessment by a primary care provider should not replace a more comprehensive oral health assessment by a dentist within six months of the eruption of the first tooth, or by twelve months of age. All children should have an established Dental Home by three years of age. Dentists may bill DC Medicaid for an oral health assessment for children under three (3) years of age using CDT Code D0145. D0145 is reimbursable once every six (6) months per patient at a rate of \$40 per exam.

In addition to the regular oral health assessments, the application of fluoride varnish every three to six months has been proven to decrease the incidence of ECC. Children at high risk for ECC are believed to benefit from quarterly applications of fluoride varnish, while those with low to moderate risk should receive the fluoride varnish applications once every six months. Dentists may bill DC Medicaid for applications of fluoride varnish using CDT code D1206. D1206 is reimbursable up to once every three (3) months per patient at a rate of \$29 per application. There are no patient age restrictions on D1206 when billed by a dentist enrolled with DC Medicaid.

The DC Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) have also been notified that these dental procedures are to be covered. Dental providers should check with each MCO to determine the exact implementation date, reimbursement criteria, and reimbursement rate that will be paid by that MCO.

CDT Coding Changes for the Topical Application of Fluoride

The American Dental Association has eliminated the following CDT codes effective January 1, 2013. For dates of services on or after January 1, 2013, the following CDT codes will no longer be reimbursed by the DC Department of Health Care Finance.

- D1203-Topical Application of fluoride-child
- D1204-Topical Application of fluoride-adult

The CDT code (D1208) listed below has been added to the DC Medicaid fee for service schedule effective for dates of services on or after January 1, 2013. The new dental procedure code replaces the two deleted CDT codes above and will be reimbursed at \$25.00 per application. The frequency limitations are also the same as the deleted procedure codes; one per six (6) months per patient.

- D1208-Topical application of fluoride

If your dental office provided Topical Fluoride Application to a DC Medicaid beneficiary since January 1, 2013 and you have submitted a claim using D1203 or D1204, your claim will be denied. Please resubmit your claim using CDT code D1208.

Accuracy of Dental Provider Information

In an effort to improve dental access for Medicaid children, it is very important that DHCF have accurate hours of operation for your office, as well as information about the ages of patients you are able to serve. There is a special need for dentists who will see children under the age of three (3) years. Please notify DHCF and the MCOs you are paneled with if any of this information changes for your office so that DHCF may maintain accurate records in reporting this information to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Contact DHCF

If you have any questions about the information contained in this transmittal, or need additional information, please contact Colleen Sonosky, Associate Director, Division of Children's Health Services or Dr. Antonio Lacey, Program Analyst, Division of Clinician, Pharmacy, and Acute Services. Ms. Sonosky can be reached at 202-442-5913 or by email at Colleen.Sonosky@DC.gov. Dr. Lacey can be reached at 202-442-5847 or by email at Antonio.Lacey@dc.gov. Thank you for your support and the oral health services provided to beneficiaries of the DC Medicaid program.