

mcp memo

October 30, 2020

TO: ALL DENTAL HYGIENISTS

FROM: DR. ED WILLIAMS

RE: HYGIENE PREAMBLE FOR THE CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH PLAN (CDHP)

Dental Hygienists who have applied for and received a provider number to allow direct billing into the CDHP, are referenced heretofore as Independent Dental Hygienists and must use the codes as listed in the Dental Hygienist's Payment Schedule. This schedule is posted on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Website at the following link: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/Childrens-Dental-Dental-Hygienists.pdf>

It is recommended that all independent dental hygienists read the Preamble closely as it will describe the rules for billing into the program. While all rules are important, I would like to highlight two rules in particular:

- 1) Payer of Last Resort.
 - a. Provincial dental programs are Payers of Last Resort. This means that any patient who presents to your clinic or clinical set-up must be canvassed to determine if they have private insurance. This must be documented on a form (enclosed) and signed by the parent/patient and the dental hygienist. If there is no insurance, the CDHP may be billed at 100 percent of the fee listed in the Payment Schedule. If there is insurance, the patient's policy must be billed 100 percent of the CDHP fee in anticipation of a payment equal to the particular percentage of the policy. For example, most policies allow for 80 percent of fees. You would concurrently bill 20 percent to the CDHP. Any difference in payout by an insurance policy will be deemed the financial responsibility of the patient.

This will be audited regularly to ensure compliance. A typical audit would initially request forms from randomly selected patients.

- 2) Services with overlapping codes (cleanings can be billed from the hygiene or dental payment schedule) will have restrictions in place to allow the limit of that service per patient and not per provider. For example, if an independent dental hygienist does a prophylaxis or fluoride using their codes and subsequently a dental office bills using their codes, only the first services will be eligible for payment. This will be processed respecting the time of submission for payment and not the date of service.

As indicated, the above two examples are noted due to a higher number of enquiries but you should be versed in all rules outlined in the Preamble related to your practice.

Dental Hygienists who are working within a dental office may continue in their historical manner. Billings will be through the dentist's billing number.

Thank you,

Dr. Ed Williams
Dental Consultant