



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Orthodontia Billing Initiative Update

4/6/2017

An update regarding changes to orthodontia billing policy first presented on 10/14/2016.

Important Note: Revisions to orthodontia billing policy are considered draft until changes are made effective in the Office Reference Manual. This Update is a snap-shot of the Department position as of 4/6/2017 and should not be read as a final policy determination. The Department is crafting the final responses to the Orthodontia Billing Initiative Frequently Asked Questions document published 11/21/2016 and will be publishing it in the coming weeks.

Provider Enrollment

The Department would like to express our gratitude to our orthodontia providers and appreciation for your patience while we have focused on our efforts on the transition to our new fiscal agent. Funds were released to DentaQuest and providers were paid in full for all delayed payments. We are still working with our new fiscal agent to ensure that weekly payments continue uninterrupted. To date, over 2,000 dental providers have enrolled in the program using the new Online Provider Enrollment Tool, this includes 250 new providers since October of 2016. Currently, we have 130 active orthodontic providers.

Changes to Billing

Since our meeting in October, we have updated system edits to better align provider reimbursement with existing Department policy. The Department will continue to monitor the savings from this update. In consideration of the potential savings from these updates, the Department has decided to postpone indefinitely some of the previously communicated billing policy changes. This update outlines the current plan.

The Department remains committed to transforming upfront payment.

- Presently, comprehensive orthodontic treatment of transitional dentition (D8070),

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adolescent dentition (D8080), and adult dentition (D8090) is paid per the table below. The total case rate for interceptive and comprehensive orthodontia will not change. However, the payment structure will be slightly different than previously communicated. In brief, the Department plans to modify the payment structure previously communicated in the following ways: **Original proposal:** Transform the current comprehensive orthodontia payment structure by dividing the global fee into payment at banding, four semi-annual visits, and debanding and retention.

- **Billing Update March 2017:** Transform the current orthodontia payment structure for comprehensive treatment (no change will be made to interceptive payment) by dividing the current banding fee into five payments: at banding, at six months, twelve months, eighteen months, and final payment at debanding and retention.
- Proposed schedule and fees still awaiting final approval:

Orthodontia Treatment Timeline	Current Policy			Proposed Policy		
	D8070	D8080	D8090	D8070	D8080	D8090
Begin Course of Treatment (Upfront Payment)	\$2,543.44	\$2,861.37	\$3,179.30	\$1,959.10	\$2,277.03	\$2,594.96
D8670 - Periodic Orthodontic Treatment Visit (Paid at 6 Months)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120.87	\$120.87	\$120.87
D8670 - Periodic Orthodontic Treatment Visit (Paid at 12 Months)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120.87	\$120.87	\$120.87
D8670 - Periodic Orthodontic Treatment Visit (Paid at 18 Months)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120.87	\$120.87	\$120.87
D8680 - Orthodontic Retention (removal of appliances, construction and placement of retainer(s))	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$221.73	\$221.73	\$221.73
Total Reimbursement	\$2,543.44	\$2,861.37	\$3,179.30	\$2,543.44	\$2,861.37	\$3,179.30

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- **Original proposal:** Average the fees currently paid for comprehensive orthodontic treatment codes (D8070/80/90; e.g. pay the same fee regardless of transitional, adolescent or adult dentition), and include payment for exams and records in the new total case rate.
 - **Billing Update March 2017:** Comprehensive orthodontic treatment case rate will be determined per the current fee schedule: transitional dentition (D8070) at \$2543.44; adolescent dentition (D8080) at \$2861.37; and adult dentition (D8090) at \$3179.39.
- **Original proposal:** Average the fees currently paid for interceptive orthodontic treatment across the two treatment codes (D8050/60). Interceptive treatment would continue to be paid upfront.
 - **Billing Update March 2017:** There will be no change to payment for interceptive orthodontic treatment. It will continue to be paid in full, per the current fee schedule: transitional dentition (D8050) at \$973.85; and transition dentition (D8060) at \$1144.84.
- **Original proposal:** Restrict reimbursement for diagnostic casts, x-rays and other preparatory diagnostics associated with the prior authorization process by including certain pre-approval exams and records codes in the total case rate.
 - **Billing Update March 2017:** Orthodontists may develop orthodontic records for any child Member that they believe is likely to qualify through the prior authorization process as having a handicapping malocclusion. Reimbursement for diagnostic casts, x-rays and other preparatory diagnostics associated with the prior authorization process will be reimbursed per the benefits and limitations outlined in the Office Reference Manual when billed before comprehensive treatment begins. Once banded, diagnostic and preventive codes are not billed separately as they are considered part of the case rate for comprehensive care.
- **Original proposal:** Pay a set fee on denied cases, which providers would bill for under the code D8660.
 - **Billing Update March 2017:** Orthodontists may develop orthodontic records for any child Member that they believe is likely to qualify through the prior authorization process as having a handicapping malocclusion. Reimbursement for diagnostic casts, x-rays and other preparatory diagnostics associated with the prior authorization process will be reimbursed per the benefits and limitations outlined in the Office Reference Manual when billed before comprehensive treatment begins.



An update to the [Orthodontia Billing Initiative Frequently Asked Questions](#) document published on 11/21/2016 will be provided in the coming weeks. We are on target to implement the new payment structure on July 1, 2017 and updated Office Reference Manual will be published in advance of this date.

For more information contact

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