

COHC Report to the GLAO Board August 2020

The Council on Orthodontic Healthcare met via Zoom on June 13, 2020. The winter COHC meeting will be held in January of 2021 via teleconference and the summer meeting will be held in St. Louis in June of 2021.

Council Objectives for 2020-2021:

- 1) Work with Code Maintenance Committee to simplify orthodontics section of the CDT Code
- 2) Build a training manual/material to assist members in common coding questions
- 3) Foster relationships to build awareness of the AAO DOS program to increase access to care
- 4) Be a leader in the surveillance of teledentistry issues with Third Party Payers
- 5) Bring awareness of aligner therapy differences and clarify reimbursement

Coding & Member Education:

- 1) The NADP Meeting has been moved to a virtual event.
- 2) The AADC Meeting was cancelled and not rescheduled this year.
- 3) Dr. Oppenhuizen reported on the 2020 CMC meeting. There was little support for the AAO's proposed revision to the preamble of the Orthodontics section of the CDT. The ADA would like to see implementation of a CDT 2.0 that includes modifiers.
 - a. *Motion passed for COHC Representatives to invite National Association of Dental Plans Representatives to discuss several payment issues facing orthodontists.*
- 4) The Global Orthodontic Code Review Subcommittee would like to consider a comprehensive revision of the Orthodontics section of the CDT code.
 - a. *Motion passed for COHC to survey AAO Membership to determine biggest/most common issues members find with the Code Book.*
 - b. *Motion passed for COHC's Global Orthodontic Code Review Subcommittee work with its ADA counterpart, Coding and Transactions Subcommittee, to assist with the AAO's global review of the orthodontic code section, with revisions to be submitted to Code Maintenance Committee.*

Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care:

No changes are to be made to the current accepted definition of Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care as well as automatic qualifiers.

Access to Orthodontic Healthcare:

The board will support the DOS program as it transitions with new administrative leadership.

New Business:

- 1) **PPE Charges:** The council agreed that it supports the ADA's position to push third-party payers for greater reimbursements for services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) **Upcharge for Clear Aligners:** The council discussed that the Disallow Policy is becoming more common for members in-network with dental insurers. The council will create a resource explaining issues to look for when reviewing contracts with Dental Insurers. Will also make the disallow charge an agenda item to be discussed with the NADP and other industry groups.

COHC Subcommittees:

The COHC has been divided into four subcommittees with the following major focal points. These subcommittees will work to streamline the COHC's efforts & objectives.

- 1) Access to Care Committee
- 2) Coding Committee
- 3) Member and Orthodontic Benefits Education Committee
- 4) Dental Industry Relations and Trends Committee

Thank you,

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