

COHC Report - November 2021

The Council on Orthodontic Healthcare has an upcoming meeting via ZOOM scheduled for January 8th, 2022 and our summer meeting will be held in St. Louis in June.

Our council Objectives for Years 2020-2021 included the Following:

- 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

We have had a busy year accomplishing and meeting goals relative to our above objectives. Of great significance includes changes in the CDT code upcoming January 2022:

- 1) Interceptive Codes will go away (D8050 - D8060)
- 2) Limited Orthodontic Treatment will absorb the Interceptive Codes (D8010 - D8040)

Reasons for Code Changes: *2020 AAO Survey Reported ~37% of respondents need clarity on Interceptive vs. Limited vs. Comprehensive*

- 1) Simplification of Coding Decisions
- 2) Coding becomes more Universal
- 3) Increased efficiency of Claims Processing

Immediate Results of Code Changes

- 1) Contracted fees will likely change to accommodate the merged coding protocol
- 2) Each insurance company will accommodate the change individually
- 3) AAO is in dialogue with NADP regarding reimbursements

Dental Benefits Comments Box:

- We have provided a [link](#) on the AAO Members page in order to directly connect with members of the COHC. We have found this tool useful for member feedback and the COHC has followed up with member requests.
- This link is intended for comments or suggestions as it pertains to dental benefits programs, claims submissions, the CDT code, or other related matters.

The COHC continues to work on creating and updating AAO Member Resources on insurance coding and billing. Members will also be attending the NADP, AADC, and CMC in order to continually meet our objective.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a council representative!

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