



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Seirbhís Aisíoca Príomhchúraim  
Bealach amach 5 an M50  
An Bóthar Thuaidh  
Fionnghlas  
Baile Átha Cliath 11

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Circular No. 008/10

26<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Dear Dentist,

The Budget 2010 decision limited expenditure under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) to €63m. To protect access to emergency dental care for medical card holders and to safeguard services for Children and Special Needs Groups, the HSE will prioritise the range of treatments available under the DTSS.

Using 2009 uptake levels, the HSE will provide emergency dental care to eligible patients with a focus on relief of pain and sepsis. Additional care will be considered in exceptional or high risk cases. Where an eligible person seeks emergency dental treatment, the contracting dentist must satisfy her/himself as to the clinical emergency and provide the necessary urgent treatment in accordance with the following schedule:-

1. Dentists will be reimbursed for one (1) Oral Examination (Item A1) in respect of an eligible person in any 12 month period. This examination is to include any necessary radiographs i.e. Extra-Oral Radiographs (Item B4) are suspended.
2. Prophylaxis treatment (Item A2) is suspended until further notice.
3. The HSE will reimburse up to and including two (2) restorations (from Items A3A or A3C) per eligible person, as part of emergency treatment, where the contracting dentist is satisfied as to the clinical emergency. Additional restorations will only be allowed in approved emergency circumstances.
4. Exodontics (Item A4) will be reimbursed where the contracting dentist is satisfied as to the clinical emergency.
5. Claims for Surgical Extractions (Item A5), will be reimbursed in emergency circumstances where the contracting dentist is satisfied as to the clinical emergency. This reimbursement will be restricted to a maximum of 2 time units. Claims for this treatment item will continue to be monitored over the coming months to ascertain if any additional control measures are required.
6. Miscellaneous claims (Item A6) will be restricted to control of haemorrhage and prescriptions.

7. The HSE will reimburse First Stage Endodontic (Item A7), one anterior tooth per eligible person, without prior approval, where a patient presents with an abscess or irreversible severe pulpitis on an anterior tooth (canine to canine – maxillary and mandibular). Any case requiring additional treatment will be subject to prior approval and clear treatment plans and prognosis for the remaining maxillary and mandibular teeth must be submitted. The HSE will expedite approval of such treatment plans including examination of radiographs or clinical assessments as appropriate within two weeks.
8. Denture Repairs (Item A8) will be reimbursed in emergency circumstances where the contracting dentist is satisfied as to the clinical emergency.
9. Endodontic Treatment (Item B1) will be reimbursed in approved emergency circumstances as set out in point 7 above.
10. Protracted Periodontal Treatment (Item B3) approvals are suspended until further notice. However, in clearly defined cases where periodontal care is warranted, e.g. diabetes, pregnancy, immuno-compromising conditions, and those requiring relevant surgical procedures such as cardiac surgery and joint replacements, approval may be given at the discretion of the local Principal Dental Surgeon taking budgetary exigencies into account.
11. Prosthetics (Item B5) will only be allowed in approved emergency circumstances.

The HSE will continue to monitor all treatment items to ascertain if any additional processes or control measures are required.

Thank you for your cooperation in relation to these matters.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Burke', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick Burke  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service