

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 23rd June 2020
TO: Health Insurers, Bermuda Dental Board
FROM: Dr. Ricky C. Brathwaite, CEO Bermuda Health Council
RE: COVID-19 Response re: PPE Coverage for Dentists (24th June – 22nd September)

The following guidance is being provided in respect of coverage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for dental services. **The Health Council recommends that Health Insurers reimburse 50% of the Health Council's Recommended Fee.** *The Health Council reserves the right to update the recommended fee based on the most up-to-date information related to procurement and cost of PPE.*

Guidance Rationale: Dental settings have unique characteristics that warrant specific infection control considerations. Dental healthcare professionals should wear a surgical mask, eye protection (goggles, protective eyewear with solid side shields, or a full-face shield), a gown or protective clothing, and gloves during procedures likely to generate splashing or spattering of blood or other body fluids.

During aerosol-generating procedures conducted on patients assumed to be non-contagious, dental healthcare professionals should use an N95 respirator or a respirator that offers a higher level of protection such as other disposable filtering face piece respirators, powered air-purifying respirators, or elastomeric respirators, if available. Respirators should be used in the context of a respiratory protection program, which includes medical evaluations, training, and fit testing. If a respirator is not available for an aerosol-generating procedure, a dental healthcare professional should use both a surgical mask and a full-face shield. The mask should be cleared by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or equitable international regulatory body. Dental healthcare professionals should use the highest level of surgical mask available. If a surgical mask and a full-face shield are not available, aerosol-generating procedures should not be done.

The following procedure codes are intended to be used during the COVID19 pandemic in addition to dental services performed to recognize the higher costs of additional PPE, per appointment, which are not already captured by the cost factor within the current suggested fees for individual procedure codes. These codes and recommended charge rates are not to be used for the additional time dentists require to use these materials (donning and doffing) or the additional time required to see the patient (including operatory fallow time).

Applicable Ontario Dental Association PPE Codes and Health Council's Recommended Fee:

99901 - Provision of PPE for a non-aerosol generating procedure (non-AGP) per appointment due do the COVID-19 pandemic **(99901 Recommended Fee: \$20)**

99902 - Provision of PPE for an aerosol generating procedure (AGP) per appointment due to the COVID-19 pandemic **(99902 Recommended Fee: \$20)**

The effective date of this guidance is 24th June 2020 and extends for 90 days through 22nd September 2020. Upon review, this guidance timeline may be extended. Patients who have documented evidence of paying the full recommended dental PPE fee out-of-pocket prior to the publication of this guidance, upon reopening of dental healthcare professional practices, while being insured by a valid insurance policy, should be given an opportunity for the relevant reimbursement up to the guidance amount (50% of the Health Council's recommended \$20 fee).

Other Non-Dental healthcare professionals: Currently, two pairs of non-sterile gloves are already including in the medical supply package for every Evaluation and Management (E/M) service. However, providers may look to separately report other PPE items using CPT code 99070 (Supplies and materials (except spectacles), provided by the physician or other qualified health care professional over and above those usually included with the office visit or other services rendered (list drugs, trays, supplies, or materials provided)). The Health Council is currently reviewing the appropriateness of added cost of the following specific items as potential supplements to coverage guidance for non-dental healthcare professionals:

- Shoe covers, surgical
- Safety glasses
- Staff gown, impervious
- Surgical mask, with face shield

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricky Brathwaite". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Ricky C. Brathwaite, PhD, MS, MSHS
Chief Executive Officer
Bermuda Health Council