



DENTAL OFFICE UPDATE

Move. Be active, stay healthy.

Fall 2004

ODEA Presents Dental Insurance Forum 2004

Dental teams in Oregon and Washington are gearing up for what is guaranteed to be another action-packed, highly informative day of training. Oregon Dental Executives' Association (ODEA) is happy to announce that the annual ODEA Dental Insurance Forum is being held in Portland on Friday, October 22.

The day will begin with discussion of the new and revised dental codes (CDT-2005) that are mandated for use on January 1, 2005. You can expect to learn what the new codes are, when to bill them, and the documentation carriers will expect to see with your claims.

In the afternoon, ODS is proud to sponsor a lunch and learn. During lunch representatives from ODS

Customer Service and Professional Relations will present, "A Day in the Life of an ODS Claim." This lunch presentation will address issues such as returned claims, requests for additional information and claims processing times, as well as many other claims questions. The ODS luncheon will also guide you through processing updates, the A-Z's of claim submission, steps to filing a successful claim, the keys to submitting X-rays, how to file claims electronically, dental products and much more. The ODS claims lunch and learn workshop will provide lunch for all participants and begins at 11:30 a.m.

ODS is also happy to announce that it will have a table in the exhibitor booth running a Dental Benefits

Tracker (DBT) demo. DBT is a free service, please stop by and see how it can help your office.

After lunch, the ODEA has lined up a panel of experts from seven major insurance carriers to answer your questions about the new dental codes, brush biopsies, buildups, implants, perio, electronic claims, and more. Attendees raved about the quantity and quality of information offered by last year's insurance panel at the Eugene Dental Insurance Forum. This is a rare opportunity you do not want to miss.

Mark your calendar for October 22 at the Doubletree Hotel (Columbia River) Portland, OR. To register, call 541-345-3795 or send an email to odea@odea96.org.

A Call to Arms

The following is an excerpt from a letter Dr. Ken Ferré submitted to Membership Matters. For more information please contact Dr. Ferré.

Portland has dropped from 45th place to 48th out of 50 states whose citizens have access to fluoridated water. Oregon now has only 20 percent of its citizenry drinking fluoridated water. In contrast, Minnesota and Illinois have 100% and 99 percent respectively with community water supplies that are fluoridated.

According to the Oregon Dental Foundation, over 37,000 school days were missed last year due to dental pain. With the failure of Measure
Fluoridation Continued on back

Information on codes D6973 vs. D2950

ODS wants to help you get your claims paid quickly and efficiently. In our efforts to do this we would like to share with you something we think may help.

When billing for a buildup in conjunction with a bridge, the appropriate code is D6973, (core buildup for retainer, including any pins).

D2950 is the incorrect code for a *bridge* buildup. D2950

refers to a core buildup when a restorative crown will be placed.

As a reminder, the ADA coding allows billing of a core buildup only when there is insufficient tooth strength and retention to support the crown or bridge. The code is not to be reported when the procedure only involves a filler to eliminate any undercut, box form, or concave irregularity in the

Claims Continued on back

Oregon Health Plan Standard Members receive Emergency Dental Benefits

Effective August 1, 2004 Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Standard members have emergency only dental benefits. These members have been without dental coverage since March of 2002.

The emergency plan covers emergency exams and extractions. The purpose of the plan is to enable these members to have some definitive emergency dental work and help eliminate utilization of hospital emergency rooms.

If you have questions please contact our OHP Customer Service department at 1-800-342-0526.

If you would like to help treat patients and are not currently an OHP participating dentist with ODS please contact Beth Gorle in our Dental Professional Relations department at 1-888-374-8905.

Benefit Tracker
 ODS Online Dental Benefits and Eligibility.
www.odscompanies.com/dental

Fluoridation Continued from front

30, the OHP dental plan has derailed further, leaving few options for low-income children with toothaches. These are the children who can least afford to miss school.

Is this the dental professions' problem alone? No, but it is Dr. Fred Bremner's, Dr. April Love's and my belief that our profession must show leadership in bringing community water fluoridation forward to the people of Oregon.

It begins with a grass roots campaign and education in our offices - one patient at a time. Representatives want to hear from our soccer moms, NASCAR dads, teachers, secretaries and citizens from all walks of life calling them and asking, "Why isn't there fluoride in our water?" If we can create a ground swell of support, the politicians will listen.

We have created an attractive counter sign for display in our offices. It states, "This office recommends WATER FLUORIDATION TO PREVENT CAVITIES. If you want fluoride in your water - ASK FOR IT!" Below it is a tear-off pad with most of the key local politicians in the Portland metropolitan area; many dentists have designed their own tear-off sheets with the names of their local politicians.

But having the sign in our waiting rooms alone will not move patients. Talk to your patients and educate them, and most importantly, educate yourselves about fluoridation and the opposition.

If you did not get a counter sign and would like one, please contact April Love at love.dds@verizon.net or Kurt Ferré at kferre51@comcast.net.

Claims Continued from front

preparation.

If the code D2950, (buildup for a crown), is billed in conjunction with a bridge, it may cause a delay in the processing of your claim. To avoid the extra time and work for your office, please be aware of the difference in buildup codes for crown and bridge services.

Of course the best way to get all

your dental claims processed and paid in a timely manner is to make sure you use CDT-4 procedure codes and the code(s) exactly match the procedure(s) performed.

Keeping these guidelines in mind will help reduce the time it takes to get your claims processed and paid. Claims turnaround time and accuracy is very important to ODS.

PRSRRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PORTLAND, OR
 PERMIT NO. 1039

The ODS Companies
 601 SW Second Avenue
 Portland, OR 97204-3156