



MAY 28 2024

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Dr. Derek Thiessen  
President  
The College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan  
201 - 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South  
1202 The Tower at Midtown  
SASKATOON SK S7K 1J5

Dear Dr. Thiessen:

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 2024, regarding the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). I appreciate being informed of your comments about coordination of benefits between the CDCP and provincial dental programs.

With respect to payor order, you are correct that Saskatchewan will maintain its current structure, where it acts as the primary payor for Supplementary and Family Health Benefit clients (SHB/FHB), unless they are registered with the CDCP. Under this model, while a greater number of patients, including seniors, will be eligible for dental care under the CDCP and receive this care in a timely manner, low-income SHB/FHB eligible residents will not be inconvenienced as they will have a choice of which program to access.

The Ministry of Health has considered transitioning to a second payor model but determined it is not feasible as it risks having barriers or delays to low-income beneficiaries in receiving dental care. All SHB/FHB clients will be eligible for the CDCP based on the income thresholds; however, registration in the CDCP requires clients to file an income tax return to be eligible. A number of beneficiaries who are nominated to SHB are persons with disabilities, may be transient, etc. and may not have the capability or resources to file an income tax return. A second payor model would require access to the CDCP be exhausted prior to approaching SHB/FHB.

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The objective of coverage under SHB and FHB is to provide the basic dental care necessary for the maintenance of good oral health to low or no income Saskatchewan residents who are nominated for coverage through the Ministry of Social Services and the Ministry of Justice. As the CDCP overlaps the SHB, regardless of dental program, SHB/FHB clients will have access to dental care.

As it relates to offsetting costs to the clients, according to the CDCP Claims Processing and Payment Agreement, CDCP clients need to be informed of any fees that will not be covered by the CDCP before they receive care. Balance billing costs should not be directly offset into an SHB client unless there is a prearranged agreement (i.e., upgrading a particular service or accessing another benefit program.)

While coordination may not be apparent through payor order, by retaining the provincial dental program alongside the rollout of the CDCP, we are ensuring continuity of dental care for clients in existing programs while allowing the CDCP to address gaps in coverage for low-income seniors and young adults.

For more information about the coordination of benefits between the CDCP and provincial dental programs, please contact Sonja Orban, Director, Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch, at 306-787-3677.

Sincerely,



Everett Hindley  
Minister of Health

Derek - this for routing thing. There's are a  
lot more complicated here in SAC with how our  
coverage works and we need to ensure we  
aren't disadvantaged by the new federal  
programs. Will keep our officials engaged  
on this topic.