

DHW Dental Bulletin – June 2023

The following updates are effective July 4, 2023, for services with this date or later:

Children’s Oral Health Program (COHP) adding Scaling

The Department of Health & Wellness (DHW) is adding Scaling, as a standalone service, codes 11111 and 11112, to its Children’s Oral Health Program. Beginning July 4th, all scaling services, with this date or later, should be submitted electronically with the applicable 11111 or 11112 code. Scaling will be subject to the following limitations: 1 unit of scaling per 12 months for children aged 10 and under; and up to 2 units of scaling per 12 months for children aged 11 and over (up until the child’s 15th birthday).

Code 13211 should no longer be used for scaling or polishing. Code 13211 remains in the tariff but should be used as intended by the NSDA for Oral Hygiene Instruction / Plaque Control. **Polishing, however, is no longer an eligible service and cannot be submitted under 13211, nor can it be billed under code 11101.**

Children’s Oral Health Program (COHP) and Individuals with Special Needs Program (ISNP) Tariff Increases

The Department of Health & Wellness (DHW) enacted new Insured Dental Services Tariff Regulations for the provision of 2 of DHW’s Medical Services Insurance (MSI) dental programs. Beginning July 4, all claims for services with this date or later **for COHP and ISNP** will be paid at the new dental tariff rate, **which is no lower than 80% of the 2022 NSDA suggested fee guide**. Any prior dated services will be processed at the previous tariff rates. Any service previously at 80% of, or better than, the 2022 NSDA suggested fee guide is unchanged.

New Services/Codes added to Children’s Oral Health Program (COHP) and Individuals with Special Needs Program (ISNP)

- For the application of silver diamine fluoride: Topical Application to Hard Tissue Lesion(s) of an Antimicrobial or Remineralization Agent (13601, 13602) with a limitation of two applications per 12 months
- Anesthesia, Conscious Sedation 1 – Nitrous Oxide and Nitrous Oxide with oral sedation (92411, 92412, 92413, 92414, 92431, 92432, 92433, 92434) with a limitation of four time units per appointment. These codes are not to be applicable for dental hygiene or exam appointments. Providers require appropriate current permit from the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia.

Dentists’ Guide Updates

- Applicable tariffs (i.e. COHP, ISNP) have been updated with the new tariffs
- Codes 11111 and 11112 have been added to Children’s Oral Health Program (COHP)
- Description for 13211 has been updated to reflect its intended use as directed by the NSDA
- Sedation services and application of silver diamine fluoride have been added to the COHP and ISNP
- Holidays eligible for premium rates under the **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Program** (OMFP) will include Heritage Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

To update your billing system, download the latest Dentists Guide and Tariff for Billing Software by visiting <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/dental-programs/dentists-resources.asp>

REMINDER:

The COHP, ISNP, and Cleft Palate & Craniofacial Program (CPCP) remain payer of last resort programs, meaning any private plan of insurance must be billed first. DHW will pay any eligible balance left over after the private insurance coverage has been accessed, up to the DHW Tariff rate. Balance billing above the tariff rate for any eligible DHW benefit is not allowed.

DHW Dentists Guide

Visit novascotia.ca/dhw/dental-programs/dentists-resources.asp for links to DHW's latest Dentists Guide

Questions?

For any clarifications, please call customer service at Nova Scotia's dedicated line:

1-833-739-4035 (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM)