



June 10, 2020

To our highly valued provider network:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has dramatically impacted our entire world. The impact nationally and in our home state of Minnesota began with an order from Governor Walz directing dental practices to cease providing all elective care and limit care to only emergent conditions. Similar orders occurred across the entire country. These orders were in place for nearly 2 full months. Minnesota's governor later issued an additional order allowing dental practices to re-open to non-emergent care following stated guidelines beginning May 11, 2020.

During the shutdown, the profession was faced with a "new normal" in terms of the provision of care. Very early in the timeline that COVID-19 was identified, dentistry was identified as one of the highest risk professions for contracting the virus given that the practice of dentistry involves the production of aerosols in the provision of care. Given that, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) established entirely new guidelines for PPE associate with the profession. These new guidelines included the use of N-95 respirators, full face shields, disposable or 1-time use gowns to name just a few.

The acquisition of and cost of these new PPE components have added significantly to the cost of doing business. Some Dental Plans across the country have responded to this by electing to pay providers an additional fee to defray these added costs as dental practices resume providing care, for a defined period of time - - HealthPartners Dental Plan is no exception and we feel that our plan is generous and complete.

In recognition of these unanticipated and significant costs the HealthPartners Dental Plan will provide monetary relief to our valued network of providers as they face this "new normal" in providing safe and high quality care to our membership.

Beginning June 17th, the HealthPartners Dental Plan will reimburse providers in our network the amount of \$10 per visit through the use of the CDT code "D1999 - unspecified preventive procedure, by report" to document and report the use and cost of additional PPE. This is exactly as the ADA is recommending Dental Plans respond. Dentists can use this code once per patient visit/claim/day to attempt to offset the heightened cost of PPE.

We believe that you, our dental care partners in the community, are facing real challenges during this unprecedented time. We need to support you as you care for our members. By implementing this reimbursement policy, we hope to ensure our members continue to have access to the safest, highest quality care that they deserve. **Your provider agreement does not allow billing or balance billing the member directly for this procedure.**

This program will remain in effect through September 30, 2020.

This reimbursement will impact our fully-insured book of business and will exclude all Medicaid. Work is underway determining how this would apply to our self-insured clients as, by definition, this is their ultimate decision. We are *strongly* encouraging them to cover this claim.

By providing this relief to our provider network, our organization expects to distribute more than \$700,000 to dental practices in the next three and a half months.

Sincerely,



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About HealthPartners

HealthPartners is the largest consumer-governed, non-profit health care organization in the nation with a mission to improve health and well-being in partnership with members, patients and the community. For more information, visit healthpartners.com.