New Year, New Codes

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Now that the New Year has arrived the new CDT 2014 codes are ready for use. For Texas Medicaid that means the addition of 3 new codes that you can now begin reporting:

D0601 - caries risk assessment, Low Risk
D0602 - caries risk assessment, Moderate Risk
D0603 - caries risk assessment, High Risk

The descriptor of all 3 of these codes differs only by finding but specifies the inclusion of documentation. There are several Caries Risk Assessment Tools available, but Texas Medicaid dentists that are certified as First Dental Home (FDH) providers are familiar with the 10-question tool used as part of the FDH, visit tinyurl.com/k3dv4nm.

Since assessment is already being captured and maintained in the FDH patient chart, Texas Medicaid asks that providers begin reporting one of the 3 codes along with every submission of D0145. Again, this is an assessment that is already being done so the request is merely that one of the new risk codes is placed on the claim form with every D0145.

Please keep in mind that not every client is at high risk for dental caries by virtue of being covered by Medicaid alone. Although the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry tool does include a socio-economic question, that is not the case with the FDH tool used in Texas. Dr Preston Coleman states it quite eloquently this way, “I am just as likely in my practice to see a caries-free mouth in Medicaid as I am in the general population.”

Similar to FDH risk reporting, there are other dental services that have a caries risk component, such as:

FDH D0145
X-rays D0210-D0330
Fluoride D1206, D1208
Sealants D1351

These codes lend themselves to reporting in conjunction with a risk assessment code as well as the service code, and in fact have well established guidelines dependent upon a patient’s risk for developing dental caries. For example, refer to the American Dental Association (ADA) Radiation Exposure Guidelines at this link: tinyurl.com/cah8ejd.

In summary, we only ask that you start using the risk codes. Please consider including one of the three caries risk assessment codes on every claim form that contains one of the following codes: 0145, 0210-0330, 1206, 1208, 1351. This will assist us in data capture as we move forward and strive to make Texas Medicaid the best in the nation.

Also new this year, remember that diagnostic codes are now being captured on the ADA 2012 claim form, Box 34a. For most of us dentists that means waiting until our practice software incorporates drop-down boxes of reasons codes for every procedure we report (ie, filling --> recurrent decay; crown --> broken cusp) as opposed to memorizing all of the ICD-10 diagnostic codeset. To the extent that you already use them, you know who you are and where to put them. The Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership has published an excellent provider notification banner message on this subject at this link: tinyurl.com/ice47ce.

Lastly, as I always hope to convey, thank you for being a Texas Medicaid/CHIP provider!