

February 17, 2015

Subject: Dental Claim Submissions — Dental Diagnosis Code Update

Dear Dental Professional:

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) would like to express its appreciation to the dental community for its efforts to support Vermont Medicaid's implementation of the new 2012 Dental Claims form (electronic & paper). As of February 3, 2015, DVHA will only accept the new 2012 Dental Claim form.

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the use of dental diagnosis codes. In his January 7, 2015 letter, the Commissioner delayed the deadline for the mandatory use of diagnosis codes. At this time, DVHA has decided to suspend the implementation of these dental diagnosis codes indefinitely. Please note however, that this decision is subject to change if Federal regulations require the use of dental diagnosis codes in the future.

We have heard from the Vermont dental community regarding use of ICD-10 diagnosis codes and recognize the potential challenge implementation would have on providers. As you know, CMS does not currently mandate the use of ICD-10 diagnosis codes by dentists. However, the American Dental Society and CMS do support moving in this direction. To make sure we are all ready, it is important for Vermont Medicaid, VSIDS and its members to engage in productive discussions regarding a timeline to future implementation. This will allow DVHA to understand how it can help providers move in the direction of using diagnosis codes on claim submissions and determine a timeline.

Please note that providers who choose to use diagnosis codes on a claims submission should continue to do so. At this time, DVHA will not deny dental claims based on diagnosis codes, unless the code is invalid.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Aaron French, MSN, RN, BC
Deputy Commissioner
Vermont Health Access

