



MEDICAID POLICY CLARIFICATION #PC000276

ADJUDICATION OF ALVEOPLASTY

9/12/2023

To: Iowa Medicaid Managed Care Plans

This letter is a formal notification of the state's expectations related to the operations and implementation of Iowa Medicaid under the managed care program. This purpose of this letter is to do following:

- ☐ Provide formal guidance
- ☒ Clarification of existing Iowa Medicaid policy
- ☐ Guidance on new process or policy
- ☐ Request for information

Alveoloplasty Adjudication

Background:

State Medicaid programs establish and administer their own Medicaid programs and determine the type, amount, duration, and scope of services within broad federal guidelines. In Iowa, dental benefits are allowable as outlined in IAC 441.78.4.

In the decision of *Burris and Richey v. Iowa Department of Human Services*, the district court required compensation for alveoloplasty when the service is performed on a Medicaid member since alveoloplasty is a covered Medicaid benefit. This policy clarification outlines criteria for alveoloplasty adjudication that align with that outcome.

Policy:

Managed Care Plans (MCP's) and Iowa Medicaid shall ensure enrollees have access to services as defined in the contract and Iowa Administrative Code, which includes Alveoloplasty.

- Alveoloplasty shall be paid as a separate service when the member's clinical record documents the need for delivery of alveoloplasty services in accordance with the CDT code and descriptor.
- Payment for alveoloplasty shall not be bundled with another service.
- Payment for alveoloplasty shall not be denied when performed in conjunction with another surgical procedure in the same area.
- This processing policy is effective July 1, 2023.

Related Policy Clarifications:

This policy clarification should be used in correlation with the following policy clarifications:

This formal guidance impacts capitation rates in the following manner:

- ☒ This [is was] an Iowa Medicaid practice prior to April 1, 2016 and was included in the experience used to develop the capitation rates.
- ☐ This is a new process or policy that does not have a fiscal impact.
- ☐ This is a new process or policy that will be reflected in revised capitation rates and implemented July 1, 2021.

The plan shall implement this guidance immediately.