

DHW Dental Bulletin

New Dental Tariff Agreement

On January 15, 2019, the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) enacted a new *Insured Dental Services Tariff Regulations* for the provision of DHW's Medical Services Insurance (MSI) dental programs. The new tariff agreement includes:

Updated Program Names:

- The Mentally Challenged Program is renamed the 'Individuals with Special Needs Oral Health Program'.
- The Dental Surgical Program is renamed 'Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery'.

Dental Tariff Increases:

The new tariff of fees specifies the following increase to the current dental tariff:

- The tariff of fees for the Children's Oral Health, Cleft Palate/Craniofacial and Maxillofacial Prosthodontics Programs, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, have increased by 5% and are retroactive to April 1, 2018.
- The tariff of fees for the Individuals with Special Needs Oral Health Program has increased to the 2016 NSDA Fee Guide rate and are retroactive to April 1, 2018.

Beginning January 23rd, 2019 new claims for services with date of service April 1, 2018 or later will be paid at the new dental tariff rate. For already processed claims, payment will be issued within 60 days to reflect any reimbursement difference due to tariff increases with date of service April 1, 2018 or later (note: there is no need to resubmit these claims).

Children's Oral Health Program Expanded Preventive Services:

From now on the following services are insured under the Children's Oral Health Program:

- Up to two fluoride applications (the 2nd fluoride application is eligible for those at high risk for caries, see page 30 of the DHW Dentists Guide for details) per 12-month period (criteria for cavitated smooth surface caries and accompanying clinical or radiographic evidence of dentinal involvement have been removed); and
- Pit and fissure sealant applications on permanent 6-year and 12-year molars based on one application per tooth per 12-month period (criteria for deep retentive narrow pits and fissures or showing white chalky areas or stained fissures have been removed).

Updated DHW Dentists Guide & Tariff for Billing Vendors

For more details, and to update your billing system, download the latest Dentists Guide and Tariff for Billing Software by visiting novascotia.ca/dhw/children-dental and clicking on the links under Important Resources at the right of the page.

Questions?

Call Customer Service at **1-888-711-1119** from 8:30 AM – 9:30 PM for further information.