

Band 3 claims guidance

NHSBSA Provider Assurance (Dental), working in collaboration with NHSE and the Counter Fraud Authority, recently completed a claims validation exercise for Band 3 claims scheduled for children of 12 years and under by dental performers during the 2022-2023 financial year.

The assurance exercise involved reviewing the claims scheduled for the highest outlying performers and several observations were made regarding claims submitted. We would like to use the findings from this exercise to remind Providers of the following:

1. According to NHS (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005¹, the following are not permissible Band 3 items scheduled under a General Dental Services Contract:
 - Sports mouth guards
 - Fluoride Trays
 - Orthodontic appliances or retainers (may only be provided by contracts commissioned to provide orthodontic treatment as part of their orthodontic contract).
2. Hard or soft occlusal appliances would rarely be considered clinically justified for children of 12 years and under. However, if provided, it would be expected that the clinical records would record a clinical diagnosis and include details of any supportive diagnostic tests, the appliance would be fitted by the clinician, and the patient would be reviewed following the fit of the appliance to ensure satisfactory compliance with its wearing, and to review the symptoms for which the appliance was prescribed. When provided, the appliance should be indicated within the clinical data set of the FP17 as a 'Custom Made Occlusal Appliance - Hard' or 'Custom Made Occlusal Appliance - Soft'.
3. An incomplete Band 3 claim should only be submitted if an item appropriate to a Band 3 claim has been started and the patient fails to return to have the item fitted, despite attempts to contact them in accordance with the locally agreed 'failed to attend' policy. If a Band 3 treatment item is planned but not started, either because the patient changes their mind about wanting the treatment or fails to attend an appointment before treatment for the Band 3 item is started, then the claim should be submitted indicating only the treatment provided.
4. NHS (General Dental Services) Regulations² state that: *Conservation treatment of deciduous teeth in a patient who is aged under 18 years at the beginning of a course of treatment will be awarded 3 UDAs.* However, if three or more deciduous teeth are

¹ National Health Service (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005.

² National Health Service (General Dental Services) Regulations 2005 (as amended by SI 2006/563).

restored with permanent restorations, fulfilling the requirements of a Band 2b claim, then 5 UDAs will be awarded.

5. When provided, Preformed Stainless Steel crowns should be indicated as such on the Clinical Data set of the FP17 claim and 3 UDAs will be awarded. As with any banded claim submission, clinical records must support that an examination to identify all necessary treatment was provided.

References:

1. National Health Service (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005.
2. National Health Service (General Dental Services) Regulations 2005 (as amended by SI 2006/563).