

November 8, 2006

Dear Doctor:

Avesis has completed nearly 5 months of administering the Georgia Medicaid dental program for our CMO partner – Peach State Health Plan. Over this time, we have determined that some of the requirements and procedures we put in place were too cumbersome and needed to be changed. The following is an explanation of the changes that have been implemented in our specialty authorization and claim submission processes:

A) NO REFERRAL FOR ORAL SURGERY.

Beginning now, no referral to Avesis will be necessary for any referral to an Oral Surgeon. Patients can be sent directly to the Oral Surgeon for treatment. Oral Surgeons will still be required to submit prior authorizations for those services indicated as requiring authorization in the Avesis Dental Provider Manual.

B) NO X-RAYS REQUIRED WITH D7210 CLAIMS.

Surgical extractions (D7210) will no longer require x-rays to be submitted with the claim for payment. X-rays are still required with claims submitted for all impactions (D7220, D7230 and D7240).

C) NO X-RAYS REQUIRED WITH STAINLESS STEEL CROWNS.

Stainless steel crowns will no longer require an x-ray when submitting the claim for payment. Avesis will request copies of x-rays during our quarterly reviews.

D) NO X-RAYS REQUIRED WITH SPACE MAINTAINERS.

Space maintainers will no longer require an x-ray when submitting the claim for payment. Avesis will request copies of x-rays during our quarterly reviews.

E) NO NARRATIVE REQUIRED FOR NITROUS.

Claims submitted for Nitrous Oxide will not require a narrative regarding the need for nitrous oxide. There is only one unit available per visit for this service.

F) CODES D2161 AND D2393 HAVE BEEN ADDED TO OUR FEE SCHEDULE.

A number of dentists from the network in Georgia have requested that we add back the codes D2161 and D2393 because services should be reported as actually performed. The fees for these services will be the same fees as D2160 and D2392 respectively.

G) NEW HOSPITAL DENTAL CASE AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENT.

A new hospital authorization program is now in place for all dental services cases to be performed in a hospital or IV sedation clinic. If you are dentist with hospital privileges or treating patients under IV sedation, an authorization will be required. The process is controlled by Avesis and you will need to contact us for all the correct information. All hospital oral surgery cases will continue to be authorized through Peach State Health Plan.

H) NEW PROVIDER MANUALS.

Avesis is in the process of re-writing our Medicaid Provider Manuals. Based upon feedback from the Georgia Dental Association, our CMO – Peach State Health Plan and our network providers, we have made a number of significant changes in our dental program, which need to be reflected in the Provider Manual. We anticipate the new manual to be completed and on the web site (www.avesis.com) by mid-November. Thank you for your patience.

I) BENEFIT LIMITATION FOR PROPHYLAXIS

Based on utilization data, Avesis has deemed it necessary to clarify the benefit limitations on D1120, prophylaxis – child. In order to promote better oral health for members, this service will only be payable one time every 181 days.

J) NATIONAL ELECTRONIC ATTACHMENT

Avesis accepts electronic attachments via FastAttach™, a National Electronic Attachment, LLC (NEA) company, for Pre-Estimate/Prior Approval requests requiring these documents. This program allows transmissions via secure internet lines. For more information contact FastAttach™ at: www.fast.nea.com or NEA at: (800) 782-5150.

K) PHARMACY ISSUES FROM PEACH STATE HEALTH PLAN.

Avesis had received some feedback regarding limitations of the drugs available under the prescription drug program for Peach State Health Plan. We had a meeting with the medical and pharmacy staff at Peach State to address these issues. Peach State's pharmacy director indicated that they had made some corrections to the computer system and that the drug formulary is now dispensing accurately. The commonly prescribed drugs for dentistry, including antibiotics and pain medications, are generally all available for your Peach State Health Plan and Avesis Medicaid Members. Also, Peach State now has Preident fluoride rinse available for any caries prone patients.

L) NEW PREGNANCY PROGRAM.

Effective on July 1, 2006, the Department of Community Health announce that the new dental program for pregnant women was now available. For claims to be processed your office will need to submit a DMA 635 form – Attestation of Pregnancy Form - that was completed by the women's gynecologist or primary care physician. Please send a copy of that form along with the claim for services performed under the dental plan. The list of covered dental services is available in the new Avesis Provider Manual. For pregnant women under age 21, there is no additional requirement for eligibility. Avesis is working with Peach State Health Plan to notify the physicians about the availability of these dental benefits.

These are the latest changes in the program for Avesis. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact our Customer Service unit at 1-800-231-0979.

Sincerely,



Fred L Sharpe, DDS
Chief Dental Officer
Avesis Dental Plans