



Connecticut Medical Assistance Program

Policy Transmittal 2015-23

Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner

PB 2015-51

July 2015

Effective Date: July 15, 2015

Contact: Donna Balaski @ 860-424-5342

TO: Dentist, Group Dentists, Dental Clinics, Dental Federally Qualified Health Centers and Hospital Based Dental Clinics

RE: Changes to the Orthodontic Qualifying Score

The purpose of this policy transmittal is to notify enrolled dental providers who perform orthodontic treatment and all orthodontists of an important change to the qualifying Salzmann Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment (Salzmann Score) available to eligible members who obtain dental care through the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP).

Effective for dates of service on or after July 15, 2015, the determination of medical necessity on a correctly scored Salzmann Handicapping Malocclusion Assessment will increase. In order to qualify for orthodontic coverage in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program, the minimum scoring for medical necessity will be raised from the current scoring of 24 points and higher to 26 points and greater, which will make Connecticut consistent with other states' minimum scoring requirement.

A strict adherence to the Salzmann standard must be observed by dental providers. The mandatory standards will be posted to the CTDHP Web site at www.CTDHP.com under the "Provider Partners" section. Approval of cases may be denied or delayed if the following information is not included at the time of submission for case evaluation:

- Any medical/behavioral health conditions should be recorded on the Salzmann scoring sheet at the time of submission;

- Radiographs must be of diagnostic quality or they will not be reimbursed; and,
- Diagnostic casts must be properly trimmed or they will not be reimbursed.

Note all panoramic radiographs and diagnostic casts now require prior-authorization. Prior-authorization will be reviewed as part of the case submission for review of the treatment request. Reimbursements for radiographs and the diagnostic casts of clients will only occur for properly scored Salzmann Indexes with scores **equal to or greater than 24 points**. If the score is **less than 24 points** on a properly scored Salzmann Index, then reimbursement for the radiographs or diagnostic casts will be denied.

Cases may either be submitted electronically or in physical form. For information on how to submit orthodontic cases electronically, please contact CTDHP at 860 – 507 – 2329 or physical cases may be mailed to:

Orthodontic Case Review
c/o BeneCare Dental Plans
195 Scott Swamp Road, Suite 101
Farmington, CT 06032

Posting Instructions: Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution: This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program by HP Enterprise Services.

Responsible Unit: DSS, Division of Health Services, Division of Integrated Services, Dental Unit, Donna Balaski, D.M.D. at (860) 424-5342.

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