

Chapter 182-535A WAC

ORTHODONTIC SERVICES

WAC

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WAC 182-535A-0010 Definitions for orthodontic services. The following definitions and those found in WAC 388-500-0005 apply to this chapter.

"Appliance placement" means the application of orthodontic attachments to the teeth for the purpose of correcting dentofacial abnormalities.

"Cleft" means an opening or fissure involving the dentition and supporting structures, especially one occurring in utero. These can be:

- (1) Cleft lip;
- (2) Cleft palate (involving the roof of the mouth); or
- (3) Facial clefts (e.g., macrostomia).

"Comprehensive full orthodontic treatment" means utilizing fixed orthodontic appliances for treatment of the permanent dentition leading to the improvement of a client's severe handicapping craniofacial dysfunction and/or dentofacial deformity, including anatomical and functional relationships.

"Craniofacial anomalies" means abnormalities of the head and face, either congenital or acquired, involving disruption of the dentition and supporting structures.

"Craniofacial team" means a cleft palate/maxillofacial team or an American Cleft Palate Association-certified craniofacial team. These teams are responsible for the management (review, evaluation, and approval) of patients with cleft palate craniofacial anomalies to provide integrated management, promote parent-professional partnership, and make appropriate referrals to implement and coordinate treatment plans.

"Dental dysplasia" means an abnormality in the development of the teeth.

"EPSDT" means the department's early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment program for clients twenty years of age and younger as described in chapter 388-534 WAC.

"Hemifacial microsomia" means a developmental condition involving the first and second brachial arch. This creates an abnormality of the upper and lower jaw, ear, and associated structures (half or part of the face appears smaller sized).

"Interceptive orthodontic treatment" means procedures to lessen the severity or future effects of a malformation and to affect or eliminate the cause. Such treatment may

occur in the primary or transitional dentition and may include such procedures as the redirection of ectopically erupting teeth, correction of isolated dental cross-bite, or recovery of recent minor space loss where overall space is adequate.

"Limited transitional orthodontic treatment" means orthodontic treatment with a limited objective, not involving the entire dentition. It may be directed only at the existing problem, or at only one aspect of a larger problem in which a decision is made to defer or forego more comprehensive therapy.

"Malocclusion" means improper alignment of biting or chewing surfaces of upper and lower teeth.

"Maxillofacial" means relating to the jaws and face.

"Occlusion" means the relation of the upper and lower teeth when in functional contact during jaw movement.

"Orthodontics" means treatment involving the use of any appliance, in or out of the mouth, removable or fixed, or any surgical procedure designed to redirect teeth and surrounding tissues.

"Orthodontist" means a dentist who specializes in orthodontics, who is a graduate of a postgraduate program in orthodontics that is accredited by the American Dental Association, and who meets the licensure requirements of the department of health.

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WAC 182-535A-0020 Clients who are eligible for orthodontic treatment and orthodontic services. (1) Subject to the limitations of this chapter and the age restrictions listed in this section, the department covers medically necessary orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services for severe handicapping malocclusions, craniofacial anomalies, or cleft lip or palate, as follows:

(a) Clients in the categorically needy program (CNP) and the medically needy program (MNP) may receive orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services through age twenty. Any orthodontic treatment plan that extends beyond the client's twenty-first birthday will not be approved by the department.

(b) Clients in the state children's health insurance program (CHIP) may receive orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services through age eighteen.

(c) Clients who are eligible for services under the EPSDT program may receive orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services under the provisions of WAC 388-534-0100.

(2) Eligible clients may receive the same orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services in recognized out-

of-state bordering cities on the same basis as if provided in-state. See WAC 388-501-0175.

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WAC 182-535A-0030 Providers of orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services. The following provider types may furnish and be paid for providing covered orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services to eligible medical assistance clients:

- (1) Orthodontists;
- (2) Pediatric dentists;
- (3) General dentists; and
- (4) Department recognized craniofacial teams or other orthodontic specialists approved by the department.

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WAC 182-535A-0040 Covered and noncovered orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services and limitations to coverage. (1) Subject to the limitations in this section and other applicable WAC, the department covers orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services for a client who has one of the medical conditions listed in (a) and (b) of this subsection. Treatment and follow-up care must be performed only by an orthodontist or department-recognized craniofacial team and do not require prior authorization.

- (a) Cleft lip and palate, cleft palate, or cleft lip with alveolar process involvement.
- (b) The following craniofacial anomalies:
 - (A) Hemifacial microsomia;
 - (B) Craniosynostosis syndromes;
 - (C) Cleidocranial dental dysplasia;
 - (D) Arthrogyposis; or
 - (E) Marfan syndrome.

(2) Subject to prior authorization requirements and the limitations in this section and other applicable WAC, the department covers orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services for severe malocclusions with a Washington Modified Handicapping Labiolingual Deviation (HLD) Index Score of twenty-five or higher.

(3) The department may cover orthodontic treatment for dental malocclusions other than those listed in subsection (1) and (2) of this section on a case-by-case basis and when prior authorized.

(4) The department does not cover the following orthodontic treatment or orthodontic-related services:

- (a) Replacement of lost or repair of broken orthodontic appliances;
- (b) Orthodontic treatment for cosmetic purposes;
- (c) Orthodontic treatment that is not medically necessary (see WAC 388-500-0005);

(d) Out-of-state orthodontic treatment, except as stated in WAC 388-501-0180 (see also WAC 388-501-0175 for medical care provided in bordering cities); or

(e) Orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services that do not meet the requirements of this section or other applicable WAC.

(5) The department covers the following orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services, subject to the limitations listed (providers must bill for these services according to WAC 388-535A-0060):

(a) Panoramic radiographs (X rays) when medically necessary.

(b) Interceptive orthodontic treatment, once per a client's lifetime.

(c) Limited transitional orthodontic treatment, once per a client's lifetime. The treatment must be completed within twelve months of the date of the original appliance placement (see subsection (6)(a) of this section for information on limitation extensions).

(d) Comprehensive full orthodontic treatment once per a client's lifetime. The treatment must be completed within thirty months of the date of the original appliance placement (see subsection (6)(a) of this section for information on limitation extensions).

(e) Orthodontic appliance removal only when:

(i) The client's appliance was placed by a different provider or dental clinic; and

(ii) The provider has not furnished any other orthodontic treatment or orthodontic-related services to the client.

(f) Other medically necessary orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services as determined by the department.

(6) The department evaluates a request for orthodontic treatment or orthodontic-related services:

(a) That are in excess of the limitations or restrictions listed in this section, according to WAC 388-501-0169; and

(b) That are listed as noncovered according to WAC 388-501-0160.

(7) The department reviews requests for orthodontic treatment or orthodontic-related services for clients who are eligible for services under the EPSDT program according to the provisions of WAC 388-534-0100.

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WAC 182-535A-0050 Authorization and prior authorization for orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services. (1) When the department authorizes an interceptive orthodontic treatment, limited orthodontic treatment, full orthodontic treatment, or orthodontic-related services for a client, including a client eligible for services under the EPSDT program, that authorization indicates only that the specific service is medically necessary; it is not a guarantee of payment. The client must be eligible for the covered service at the time the service is provided.

(2) For orthodontic treatment of a client with cleft lip, cleft palate, or other craniofacial anomaly, prior authorization is not required if the client is being treated by a department-recognized craniofacial team, or an orthodontic specialist who has been approved by the department to treat cleft lip, cleft palate, or other craniofacial anomalies.

(3) Subject to the conditions and limitations of this section and other applicable WAC, the department requires prior authorization for orthodontic treatment and/or orthodontic-related services for other dental malocclusions that are not listed in WAC 388-535A-0040(1).

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WAC 182-535A-0060 Payment for orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services. (1) The department pays providers for furnishing covered orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services described in WAC 388-535A-0040 according to this section and other applicable WAC.

(2) The department considers that a provider who furnishes covered orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services to an eligible client has accepted the department's fees as published in the department's fee schedules.

(3) **Interceptive orthodontic treatment.** The department pays for interceptive orthodontic treatment as follows:

(a) The first three months of treatment starts the date the initial appliance is placed and includes active treatment for the first three months.

(b) Treatment must be completed within twelve months of the date of appliance placement.

(4) **Limited transitional orthodontic treatment.** The department pays for limited transitional orthodontic treatment as follows:

(a) The first three months of treatment starts the date the initial appliance is placed and includes active treatment for the first three months. The provider must bill the department with the date of service that the initial appliance is placed.

(b) Continuing follow-up treatment must be billed after each three-month treatment interval during the treatment.

(c) Treatment must be completed within twelve months of the date of appliance placement. Treatment provided after one year from the date the appliance is placed requires a limitation extension. See WAC 388-535A-0040(6).

(5) **Comprehensive full orthodontic treatment.** The department pays for comprehensive full orthodontic treatment as follows:

(a) The first six months of treatment starts the date the initial appliance is placed and includes active treatment for the first six months. The provider must bill the department with the date of service that the initial appliance is placed.

(b) Continuing follow-up treatment must be billed after each three-month treatment interval, with the first three-month interval beginning six months after the initial appliance placement.

(c) Treatment must be completed with thirty months of the date of appliance placement. Treatment provided after

thirty months from the date the appliance is placed requires a limitation extension. See WAC 388-535A-0040(6).

(6) Payment for orthodontic treatment and orthodontic-related services is based on the department's published fee schedule.

(7) Orthodontic providers who are in department-designated bordering cities must:

(a) Meet the licensure requirements of their state; and

(b) Meet the same criteria for payment as in-state providers, including the requirements to contract with the department.

(8) If the client's eligibility for orthodontic treatment under WAC 388-535A-0020 ends before the conclusion of the orthodontic treatment, payment for any remaining treatment is the individual's responsibility. The department does not pay for these services.

(9) The client is responsible for payment of any orthodontic service or treatment received during any period of ineligibility, even if the treatment was started when the client was eligible. The department does not pay for these services.

(10) See WAC 388-502-0160 and 388-501-0200 for when a provider or a client is responsible to pay for a covered service.

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