

Name (report preparer): Andrew Wiltsch

Date: 2/17/2021

Name of Council/Committee/Task Force: Council on Orthodontic Healthcare

MEETINGS

Date: 1/9/2021

Conference Call In-person

Location: Teleconference

Attendance:

Chair: Dr. John Metz

Members: Dr. Richa Dutta; Dr. Tasha Hall; Dr. Randall Markarian; Dr. Layne McCord; Dr. Sneha Oberoi; Dr. Marlin Salmon; Dr. Kyle Shannon; Dr. Greg Oppenhuizen, COHC Consultant; Dr. Myron Guymon, Board Liaison

Staff: Andrew Wiltsch

Not Present: N/A

Guest(s): N/A

BOT RECOMMENDATIONS

| Recommendation | Responsible Party | Completion Date | Budget Implication |
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DISCUSSION

| Topic | Discussion | Action/Follow-up |
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| DBAS | Mr. Wiltsch provided a Dental Benefits Advisory Service (DBAS) Helpdesk Update. There were 261 calls in 2020, a slight drop that may be the result of the COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged periods of office closures/operating at reduced capacity. DBAS will continue to track a wider variety of issues in 2021, will begin collecting more specific data including references to particular codes, and will no longer track information related to the identity of callers. | Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. DBAS will continue to track a wider variety of issues in 2021, will begin collecting more specific data including references to particular codes, and will no longer track information related to the identity of callers. |
| COHC CHAIR REPORT | Dr. Metz thanked the Council for volunteering their time for the benefit of the profession. Discussed Council's 2020 accomplishments including the Coding Survey and ADA Change Request Submissions. Looking ahead, changes in Washington, D.C. could open opportunities related to increasing access to Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care. The AAO has requested its Councils focus on the 4 Things Initiative. | None |
| BOARD LIAISON REPORT | Dr. Guymon appraised the Council of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided an overview of the 4 Things Initiative. | None |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Session was rescheduled for June 25-27, 2021, and will have both in-person and virtual options. • The House of Delegates will meet virtually in April of 2021. • The annual Leadership Development Conference has gone virtual and will take place February 25th and March 25th. • Winter Conference 2021 has gone virtual and takes place February 12-14. | |
| CODING AND MEMBER EDUCATION | <p>NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL PLANS (NADP) MEETING Dr. Oppenhuizen, as the Code Consultant, provided his report with the assistance of Dr. Salmon, who was also in attendance. The 2020 meeting took place virtually in September of 2020 with replays available through December 31. For the second year in a row, the major topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of standalone dental plans dwindling or disappearing in the future. • The increasing use of Artificial Intelligence in adjudicating claims/monitoring fraud. <p>Other topics of interest generating Council discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A growing trend of dentists hiring dental consultants to negotiate their network reimbursement rates • Plans' strategy for optimizing their network (remove, replace, and recruit providers) • Apps to encourage children's engagement in their oral hygiene <p><u>Dr. Markarian and Dr. Oppenhuizen will attend the 2021 NADP Converge meeting, details of which are not yet available.</u></p> <p>AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL CONSULTANTS (AADC) MEETING The 2021 AADC Annual Meeting and Spring Workshop has been changed to a virtual event, taking place May 5-7, 2021.</p> <p><u>Dr. Markarian and Dr. Oppenhuizen scheduled to attend.</u></p> <p>ADA CODE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE (CMC) MEETING Dr. Oppenhuizen provided his report on the upcoming ADA Code Maintenance Committee meeting and presented an analysis of the 2021 Action Request Inventory. The Council discussed fifteen groups of change requests, including three from AAO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete Interceptive Orthodontic Treatment subcategory nomenclature, descriptor, and codes D8050 and D8060 • Revise Limited Orthodontic Treatment descriptor • Delete D8690 "orthodontic treatment (alternative billing to a contract fee)" | <p>Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Markarian and Dr. Oppenhuizen will attend the 2021 NADP Converge meeting, details of which are not yet available. 2. Dr. Markarian will attend the upcoming virtual 2021 AADC Meeting, along with Dr. Oppenhuizen. 3. Dr. Dutta will attend the upcoming virtual 2021 ADA CMC Meeting, along with Dr. Oppenhuizen and Mr. Wiltsch. |

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| | <p>The need for code modifiers was discussed. Insurance industry will oppose initial implementation due to cost of updating their processes. The Dental Claim Form would also require modification.</p> <p><u>Dr. Oppenhuizen and Dr. Dutta will attend the virtual 2021 ADA CMC meeting. Dr. Oppenhuizen will represent the AAO, providing the Council's positions regarding the Code Action Requests.</u></p> <p>STANDARDS COMMITTEE ON DENTAL INFORMATICS Report of the AAO's Electronic Health Records Attachments Committee was shared with the Council. Alan Baum, Director of IT and Liaison to CTECH, is the new Staff Liaison.</p> <p>Dr. Markarian reported that a topic of interest to the Council, real time in-office benefit verification, was worked during the last ADA SCDI Meeting.</p> | |
| <p>MEDICALLY NECESSARY ORTHODONTIC CARE (MNOC)</p> | <p>Dr. Shannon shared that his practice has received an increase in requests to provide a narrative explaining patients' medical necessity. Dr. Oppenhuizen reported treating a patient whose claim was paid following submission of a narrative referencing the AAO's definition and autoqualifiers.</p> <p>ANNUAL DEFINITION REVIEW Council discussed the definition and determined there was no need for revisions at this time.</p> | <p>None</p> |
| <p>NEW BUSINESS</p> | <p>MEMBER REQUEST – CBCT REIMBURSEMENT Council discussed an AAO Member's request to consider issues pertaining to obtaining reimbursement for the use of CBCT scans for the diagnosis and treatment of conditions such as sleep apnea or TMD. Determined there are CDT and CPT codes for the Member's particular use cases, but reimbursement is the issue.</p> <p>Request prompted discussion on importance of hearing Member Concerns. Current process relies on staff members relaying concerns that happen to be brought to their attention.</p> <p><u>Staff Liaison to explore creating a web form for Members to use to submit future coding and billing concerns to COHC for consideration.</u></p> <p>COHC MEMBER REQUEST – THIRD-PARTY PAYER ISSUE Dr. Salmon reports a recent issue with a third-party payer that requires a monthly visit in order for the patient to receive reimbursement.</p> <p>Council discussed options including utilization of teledentistry to facilitate patients' appointments and</p> | <p>Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Wiltsch will discuss with the Marketing Team the creation of a web form for Members to use to submit considerations/request s regarding coding/billing. |

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| | <p>speaking with the local dental association regarding this particular plan (a state program).</p> <p>“4 THINGS” INITIATIVE – AAO BOT REQUEST Mr. Wiltsch provided an update on the AAO’s “4 Things” Initiative. The Board of Trustees has tasked the Association’s Councils and Committees with considering four topics of interest and determining how the AAO can best serve its Members in these areas. The topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Aligner Therapy • Financial Management • Practice Management • All Things Digital (Teledentistry, HIPAA, Cybersecurity, etc.) <p>The Council discussed the “4 Things” and determined much of its current work already focuses on these areas. One way the Council will continue addressing these going forward is through soliciting Member feedback on coding/billing issues via its new webform and using that information to propose code changes and create educational materials. The council also plans to continue advocating for better reimbursement for clear aligner therapy and Medically Necessary Orthodontic Care.</p> | |
| <p>FUTURE MEETINGS</p> | <p>SUMMER 2021 The 2021 Summer COHC meeting is currently scheduled to be held in St. Louis on Saturday, June 12, 2020.</p> <p>Dr. Guymon reports that, due to the ongoing pandemic, the Board of Trustees will discuss at its February Meeting the state of in-person meetings currently scheduled to take place at the AAO Headquarters.</p> <p><u>Council will decide whether to offer an in-person option for the Summer 2021 Meeting once the outcome of the Board discussion is determined.</u></p> <p>A separate conversation regarding the date of the meeting took place.</p> <p><u>Staff Liaison will poll the Council on preference for date of the Summer Meeting.</u></p> <p>WINTER 2022 The Council agreed to hold the 2022 winter COHC teleconference on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at 10:00 AM Eastern, 9:00 AM Central, 8:00 AM Mountain and 7:00 AM Pacific.</p> | <p>Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decision on in-person meetings to be made upon completion of poll and/or receipt of direction from the BOT |

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| Annual Budget (Feb.) |
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| Nomination of Council Chair <i>(Annually, Nov. or Feb)</i> | Name | Constituent |
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Future Reference or Archive

The council would like to retain these items for future reference or for archive:

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