

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44

**MINUTES**  
**COUNCIL ON ORTHODONTIC HEALTH CARE**  
**JANUARY 8, 2022**  
**ST LOUIS, MO**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Council on Orthodontic Health Care was called to order via teleconference on January 8, 2022 at 9:05 AM CDT. Present were: Dr. John Metz, Chair; 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 Code Consultant; Dr. Steve Robirds, Board Liaison; and Mr. Andrew Wiltsch, Staff Liaison. Absent was Dr. Christos Papadopoulos, CONYM Liaison.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Metz welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**ANTITRUST REMINDER**

Mr. Wiltsch offered the council a reminder regarding the AAO's Antitrust Policy.

- **Action Item:** Councilmembers who have not completed AAO Volunteer Policy paperwork for this fiscal year reminded to do so as soon as possible.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- **Motion:** Shannon/Salmon  
That Consent Agenda be approved as presented.  
On unanimous vote, motion carried.

**DBAS**

Mr. Wiltsch provided a Dental Benefits Advisory Service (DBAS) Helpdesk Update, including total calls and common topics. The most common topic in 2022 was "Coding/Claim Form" questions, with many in the latter half of the year relating to the Code Changes taking effect January 1, 2022. In the new year, DBAS tracking will split "Coding/Claim Form" into three issues (1) Code Interpretation, (2) Code Identification, and (3) Claim Form, to better differentiate the nature of those calls. Other changes will include changing the "Disallow Policy" category to be more inclusive than just clear aligner upcharges and adding a "Requested Resources" category.

- **Action Item:** Staff Liaison to make changes to DBAS tracking based on staff suggestions, feedback, and discussion.

**COHC CHAIR REPORT**

Dr. Metz reported thoughts on the takeaways from reception of the code changes and opportunities to continue to educate AAO Members on code changes and the code change process. Full report submitted on Causeway.

1 **BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

2 Dr. Robirds appraised the Council of several AAO updates including:

- 3
- 4 • Four new Member Interest Groups (MIGS) including: Craniofacial and Special Needs, HR
- 5 Management, Financial Freedom, and Leadership Development
- 6 • Winter Conference and Annual Session will move forward with split in-person and
- 7 virtual format
- 8 • At-Large Trustee Applications are open, and leaders are encouraged to apply
- 9 • Encouraging Members to check out TechSelect Member Benefit
- 10 • A new Task Force on Staffing Issues has been convened
- 11 • AAO sample Health History forms are being updated to include gender identification
- 12 • The current AAO Strategic plan will end at the end of the year, and a new plan is
- 13 beginning development
- 14

15 **CODING AND MEMBER EDUCATION**

16

17 **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL PLANS (NADP) MEETING**

18 Drs. Oppenhuizen and Markarian reported on virtual NADP meeting. Dental Benefits  
19 industry is not currently pushing toward imbedded dental plans in medical plans.  
20 Though of interest to the AAO, this was not a major topic of discussion at the  
21 conference. Overarching theme of the conference was continued integration of tech  
22 and metadata in insurance industry: increased use of auto-adjudication; using AI to  
23 identify practices with outlier submission habits; desire for increased granularity in  
24 submissions; etc. Practice management software plays an important role in automation,  
25 and orthodontics specific systems are not generally as robust as those used in general  
26 dentists' practices. AAO will be meeting with Vendors at Annual Session. NADP Meeting  
27 in St. Louis in September presents opportunity. Full report submitted on Causeway.

- 28
- 29 ➤ **Action Item:** Dr. Robirds will discuss NADP collaboration with Board of Trustees at its
- 30 Meeting in February.
- 31
- 32 ➤ **Action Item:** Drs. Dutta (pending review of her schedule) and Markarian will attend
- 33 NADP Meeting September 19-22, 2022, in St. Louis, MO.
- 34
- 35 ➤ **Action Item:** Drs. Markarian, Metz, and Oppenhuizen will represent COHC on NADP's
- 36 Codes Subworkgroup (SWG) Meeting on January 12, 2022.
- 37

38 **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL CONSULTANTS (AADC) MEETING**

39 Council discussed plans for upcoming AADC Meeting, May 4-7, 2022, in Phoenix, AZ.

- 40
- 41 ➤ **Action Item:** Staff Liaison to reach out to AADC to determine if there will be an
- 42 opportunity for AAO to meet specifically with AADC leaders to discuss orthodontic
- 43 specific issues.
- 44

1 ➤ **Action Item:** Drs. Hall and Oppenhuizen will attend 2022 AADC Meeting.  
2

3 **ADA CODE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE (CMC) MEETING**

4 Dr. Oppenhuizen provided report on the Code Action Requests to be considered at the  
5 2022 ADA Code Maintenance Committee meeting. Council reviewed CARS, including  
6 substantive discussion on the following:  
7

- 8 1. New tele-dentistry code requests (remote tooth brushing monitoring and review)  
9 • Council position that current teledentistry codes can be used for this purpose.  
10 AAO will hear submitter’s justification before choosing to support or oppose.  
11
- 12 2. Modifying **D9110 palliative emergency treatment of dental pain – minor procedure**  
13 • AAO will hear specialty group and ADA’s position before supporting or opposing.  
14
- 15 3. Modifying **D1355 caries preventive medicament application – per tooth**  
16 • Council took no position.  
17
- 18 4. Adding “, **impacted teeth only**” to end of **D7251 coronectomy – intentional partial**  
19 **tooth removal.**  
20 • Council discussed that the AAO may not wish to support limiting code in this  
21 way. However, identified that **D3921 decoronation or submergence of an**  
22 **erupted tooth** may present alternative. Will hear submitters thoughts.  
23
- 24 5. AAO submission relating to replacing **D0351 3D Photographic Image** with four  
25 alternative “Image Scan” codes.  
26 • Council position that this is a likely candidate for code modifiers. Will proceed  
27 with presenting to CMC as proposed and collaborate as necessary. May need to  
28 add “using non-ionizing radiation” to descriptors.  
29
- 30 6. AAO submission regarding modifying Nomenclature and Descriptor of **D0393**  
31 **Treatment simulation using 3D image volume**  
32 • Council supports proceeding as submitted.  
33
- 34 7. AAO submission regarding “Dentition” definitions at beginning of “D8000-D8999 XI.  
35 Orthodontics” section.  
36 • Council voted 7-2 to pull this CAR. In light of the reaction to 2022’s changes,  
37 Council felt that it was best to reconsider a change of this nature that could  
38 present unintended consequences. Council wishes to seek further feedback  
39 from Members before proceeding.  
40
- 41 8. AAO submission regarding **D8703 replacement of lost or broken retainer –**  
42 **maxillary** and **D8704 replacement of lost or broken retainer – mandibular**  
43 • Council supports proceeding as presented, acknowledging that the payers will  
44 likely take issue with removing the separate codes for maxillary and mandibular

1  
2 9. AAO submission regarding modifying Nomenclature and Descriptor of **D9450 case**  
3 **presentation, detailed and extensive treatment planning**

- 4 • Council supports proceeding as presented.

- 5  
6 ➤ **Action Item:** Drs. Markarian and Oppenhuizen will attend the 2022 Code  
7 Maintenance Committee Meeting, March 10-11 in Chicago, IL.

8  
9 **ORTHOFI INSURANCE MASTERCLASS WITH TINA BYRNE**

10 Dr. Markarian provided a report on attending OrthoFi's presentation. Biggest takeaway  
11 is that practices are doing many different things when it comes to coding, and the AAO  
12 needs to be the ones controlling the narrative and education. Council discussed adding a  
13 Coding Education Consultant to AAO's Budget and having coding seminars at Annual  
14 Session.

15  
16 **MEMBER EDUCATION RESOURCES**

17 AAO Staff provided overview of resources currently available to Members and  
18 requested Councilmember feedback and ideas. In particular, the AAO's Medical Coding  
19 Resources may need updating, as they were last compiled and/or updated in 2017.

- 20  
21 ➤ **Action Item:** Dr. Oberoi to forward additional information for the Medical Coding  
22 Resources.

23  
24 **OLD BUSINESS**

25  
26 **COHC NAME CHANGE**

27 Council discussed recommendations for renaming the Council on Orthodontic  
28 Healthcare to better reflect its responsibilities and duties.

- 29  
30 ➤ **Motion:** Markarian/Oberoi  
31 That the Council Recommend to the AAO House of Delegates that the name of COHC  
32 be changed to the Council on Orthodontic Benefits (COB).  
33 On unanimous vote, motion carried.

34  
35 **COMPREHENSIVE ORTHODONTIC TRETMENT DEFINITION**

36 Council discussed Code Action Request created during the June 2020 COHC Meeting  
37 that would propose removal of the final sentence of the Comprehensive Orthodontic  
38 Treatment definition ("Comprehensive orthodontics may incorporate treatment phases  
39 focusing on specific objective at various stages of dentofacial development.") from the  
40 code. This proposal was pulled by the Council for reconsideration prior to its submission  
41 to ADA for reconsideration at this meeting. Council felt that, at this time, the change  
42 should not be proposed.

43 **NEW BUSINESS**  
44

1           **MEMBER REQUEST – AAO Autoqualifiers and State Medicaid Programs**

2           Council considered a Member Dental Benefits Comment box submission from a Member  
3           regarding the AAO’s current Autoqualifiers policy. No changes were proposed at this  
4           time.

5  
6           **REQUEST FOR INPUT – ADA Enhanced CDT Code Project**

7           Council discussed ADA’s request for input. Dr. Markarian provided insight from ADA  
8           regarding the two options under consideration: (1) Adding modifiers to the current code  
9           set or (2) greatly increasing the number of codes included in the CDT. After much  
10          discussion, Council position is that, if the ADA is to pursue this project, COHC would be  
11          initially supportive given the information currently available and with the caveat that  
12          interested parties continue to have opportunities to provide insight and expertise.

- 13  
14          ➤ **Action Item:** Staff Liaison to prepare response on behalf of COHC and share with  
15          Council for review prior to submission.

16  
17          **COUNCILMEMBER TRANSITION & PRESERVING INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

18          Council discussed strategy for retaining institutional knowledge and training new  
19          Members as four current Members’ terms will be ending in either 2022 or 2023.  
20          Members rolling off can help with transition of their replacements by meeting with and  
21          mentoring their replacements.

22  
23          **CODE CONSULTANT**

24          Tabled for further discussions.

25  
26          **FUTURE MEETINGS**

27  
28                  **SUMMER 2022**

29                  The 2022 summer COHC meeting will be held in St. Louis on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

30  
31                  **WINTER 2023**

32                  The 2023 winter COHC teleconference will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at  
33                  10:00 AM Eastern, 9:00 AM Central, 8:00 AM Mountain and 7:00 AM Pacific.

34  
35          **ADJOURNMENT**

36          With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM CDT.

37  
38          Respectfully submitted,

39  
40          

41          Andrew Wiltsch  
42          Staff Liaison, COHC