



AHCCCS ADULT COVERAGE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1

PROGRAM WILL BE FAR MORE ROBUST THAN PREVIOUS PROGRAM

The AzDA Council on Government Affairs and the Board of Trustees had an opportunity to review the new policies implementing the AHCCCS adult emergency dental benefit. Compared to the program that was in place prior to 2009 (which was limited to RCT on anterior teeth only and extractions), the proposed policies are far more robust and provide a number of treatment options that will be available for dentists treating patients for emergencies. Patients utilizing this program are capped at \$1,000 in annual benefits.

The new program is effective on October 1.

Services do not require a pre-authorization, but the condition being treated must meet the definition of “dental emergency” as follows:

A dental emergency is an acute disorder of oral health resulting in severe pain and/or infection as a result of pathology or trauma.

All services provided to adult patients are subject to retrospective review to determine whether they meet the criteria for a dental emergency.

The following services & procedures are covered as emergency dental services:

a. Emergency oral diagnostic examination (limited oral examination—problem focused),

b. Radiographs and laboratory services, limited to the symptomatic teeth,

c. Composite resin due to recent tooth fracture for anterior teeth,

d. Prefabricated crowns, to eliminate pain due to recent tooth fracture only,

e. Recementation of clinically sound inlays, onlays, crowns, and fixed bridges,

f. Pulp cap, direct or indirect plus filling,

g. Root canals and vital pulpotomies when indicated for the treatment of acute infection or to eliminate pain,

h. Apicoectomy performed as a separate procedure, for treatment of acute infection or to eliminate pain, with favorable prognosis,

i. Immediate and palliative procedures, including extractions if medically necessary, for relief of pain associated with an oral or maxillofacial condition,

j. Tooth reimplantation of accidentally avulsed or displaced anterior tooth, with favorable prognosis,

k. Temporary restoration which provides palliative/sedative care (limited to the tooth receiving emergency treatment),

l. Initial treatment for acute infection, including, but not limited to, periapical and periodontal infections and abscesses by appropriate methods,

m. Preoperative procedures and anesthesia appropriate for optimal patient management, and

n. Cast crowns limited to the restoration of root canal treated teeth only.

Follow-up procedures necessary to stabilize teeth as a result of the emergency service are covered and subject to the \$1,000 limit.

Limitations:

1. Maxillofacial dental services provided by a dentist are not covered except to the extent prescribed for the reduction of trauma, including reconstruction of regions of the maxilla and mandible.
2. Diagnosis and treatment of temporomandibular joint dysfunction are not covered except for the reduction of trauma.
3. Routine restorative procedures and routine root canal therapy are not emergency dental services.
4. Treatment for the prevention of pulpal death and imminent tooth loss is limited to non-cast fillings, crowns constructed from preformed stainless steel, pulp caps, and pulpotomies only for the tooth causing pain or in the presence of active infection.
5. Fixed bridgework to replace missing teeth is not covered.
6. Dentures are not covered

A complete copy of the new AHCCCS policy can be found on the AzDA website at <https://tinyurl.com/y8m8wf8z> ■