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Temporary PPE Pandemic Fee

The ADA has given us a code to bill all insurances because they understand that due to the shortage of PPE, it is difficult for us to get our supplies at our normal rate. All of our normal dental vendors do not have our supplies as it has been redirected to hospitals and healthcare facilities. For us to operate and provide dental services, we have been seeking our supply of PPE through other resources which sometimes are 50x the cost of our normal price. This is a nationwide problem and this is why ADA created this code for dental offices to cover some portion of the PPE cost. Fortunately, we are noticing some insurance companies are reimbursing this fee for their members.

We will be billing this fee the day of the rendered services. If the insurance reimburses us, the payment will be refunded back to you or credited into your account. Again, this is a temporary fee. We are evaluating this on a daily basis. We hope to be able to order through our normal dental vendors as soon as the supplies are redirected back to them. At that time, we will remove the temporary PPE fee.

Included is a link to the ADA website. For your convenience, we have copy and pasted the paragraph that addresses your concern.

<https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/april/ada-advocates-that-third-party-payers-should-modify-fee-schedules>

The first statement also includes recommendations for coding and billing for the use of additional PPE.

“Prior to such adjustments taking effect, dental offices may wish to use CDT code ‘D1999 - unspecified preventive procedure, by report’ to document and report the use and cost of additional PPE,” according to the statement. “Dentists can use this code once per patient visit/claim to attempt to cover the cost of PPE. Dentists should develop a standard office policy to document the additional PPE that will be used across all patients. This documentation methodology will justify a standard fee across all patients. Alternatively, dentists may wish to add a note in the patient’s record to document the details of PPE uniquely necessary for the visit when charging different fees based on the level of PPE used.”