



Dental Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR DENTAL SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Number 89 • December 2014

2015 rates of payment increase for dental claims

Effective Thursday, January 1, 2015, Alberta Blue Cross will update the rates of payment for dental claims on plans which reference the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule and plans that pay for dental services according to the Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees.

The Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule and Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees are two separate and distinct bases of payment for dental plans, which meet our customers' differing needs.

2015 Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule

The Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule provides our plan members with a fair and consistent basis of payment for dental claims. Today, dental benefits for more than 380,000 Alberta Blue Cross plan members are paid according to the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule.

For 2015, Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule fees will be increased by a weighted average of 2.24 per cent over 2014 levels.

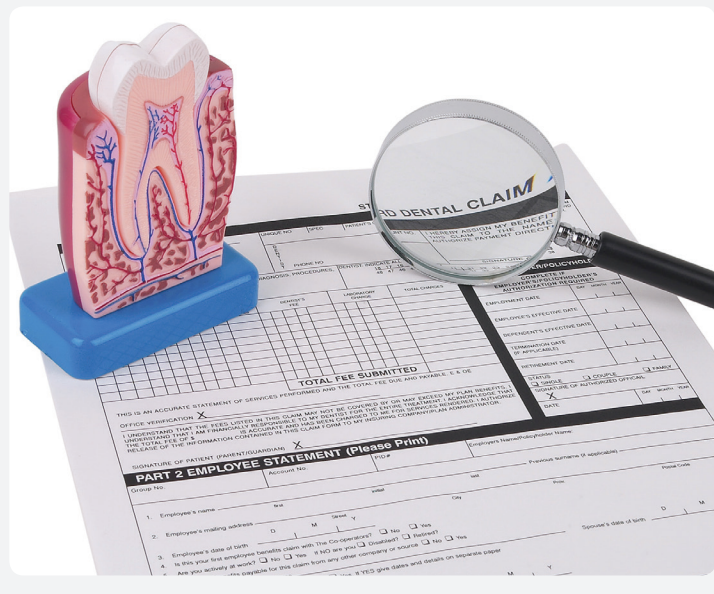
Increases to the dental schedule for 2015 are based on the results of a comprehensive annual review, which ensures the dental schedule continues to meet the needs and interests of all concerned parties—including dental service providers, employer groups plan sponsors and plan members. The 2015 Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule remains comparable to fee guides published by dental associations in all other western provinces.

Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees

Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees are based on recent claims data from actual billings of Alberta Blue Cross employer group dental plan members. Usual and Customary dental fees apply to specific Alberta Blue Cross employer group and individual product dental benefit plans and are calculated by a thorough analysis of each of the 1,800 plus procedure codes charged by Alberta dental providers. Alberta Blue Cross plans pay in excess of \$430 million annually to Alberta dental providers. This significant market share places us in the unique position of being able to accurately assess marketplace billing amounts for dental services in Alberta, enabling us to establish credible, market-appropriate rates of payment that also serve the interests of our customers.

For 2015, Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees will increase by a weighted average of 3.14 per cent over 2014 levels.

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Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary dental fees do not apply to your patients whose plans reference the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule or another basis of payment for dental services claims. Your dental office has quick and easy access to information about your patients' dental coverage through CDAnet, and your patients can access detailed information about their dental benefits through the Alberta Blue Cross member services site at www.ab.bluecross.ca.

Now posting online

As part of our ongoing efforts to minimize our environmental impact and make accessing dental fees as convenient as possible, Alberta Blue Cross will no longer be mailing out the dental fees in CD format. Instead, as of January 1, 2015, both the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule and the Alberta Blue Cross Usual and Customary fees will be available on our provider web site at www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/provider-dental-home.php.

If you are a specialist office and would like a copy of the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule for specialists, please contact Alberta Blue Cross Dental Provider Services at 780-498-8889 (Edmonton and Area), 403-294-4043 (Calgary and area) or 1-888-258-5465 (toll free).



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When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Dental Services call centre representative at:

780-498-8977 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4042 (Calgary and area)

1-800-567-8104 (toll free)

Support is available Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.