

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

“This guidance document is advisory in nature but is binding on an agency until amended by such agency. A guidance document does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal operations of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules and regulations made in accordance with the Nebraska Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this guidance document imposes additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may request a review of the document.”

Pursuant to
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-901.03

To: Nebraska Medicaid Managed Care Plans
From: Drew Gonshorowski, Director *DG*
Date: October 28, 2025
Re: Current Dental Terminology (CDT) D9997 to Identify Special Health Care Needs (SHCN)

This health plan advisory is being issued to notify the Heritage Health managed care plans that for individuals with special health care needs (SHCN), the current dental terminology (CDT) code D9997 must be submitted with the claim so that the frequency of the dental service can be exceeded when medically necessary, **effective for dates of service on or after October 15, 2025.**

For the purposes of dental services, an individual with SHCN is an individual who is unable to care for their mouth properly on their own because of a disabling condition or who has a high-risk dental diagnosis.

Nebraska Medicaid covers the following dental services more frequently when it is medically necessary for individuals with SHCN:

Periodic Oral Evaluation (D0120)

Periodic oral evaluation is covered one time every 180 days. For individuals with SHCN, periodic oral evaluation is covered more frequently when it is medically necessary. Dental records must include the SHCN diagnosis, a description of the treatment provided with medical necessity for the additional frequency of oral evaluations which must be submitted with the claim for retrospective review and approval of payment. CDT code D9997 must be used to identify an individual with SHCN.

Dental Prophylaxis (D1110 and D1120)

D1110

Dental prophylaxis is covered two times every 365 days for individuals age 14 through 20 and one time every 180 days for individuals age 21 and older. For individuals with SHCN, dental prophylaxis is covered at the frequency determined by the treating dental provider and is limited to one prophylaxis per date of service. Dental records must include the SHCN diagnosis, a description of the treatment provided with medical necessity for the additional frequency of prophylaxis which must be submitted with the claim for retrospective review and approval of payment. CDT D9997 is to be used to identify an individual with SHCN. Public health dental hygienists can submit a claim for this code when performed in a public health setting.

D1120

Dental prophylaxis is covered two times every 365 days for children age 13 and younger. For individuals with SHCN, dental prophylaxis is covered at the frequency determined by the treating dental provider

and is limited to one prophylaxis per date of service. Dental records must include the SHCN diagnosis, a description of the treatment provided with medical necessity for the additional frequency of prophylaxis which must be submitted with the claim for retrospective review and approval of payment. CDT code D9997 must be used to identify an individual with SHCN.

Topical Fluoride (D1206 and D1208)

Topical fluoride is covered two times every 365 days. For individuals with SHCN, topical fluoride is covered more frequently when it is medically necessary. Dental records must include the SHCN diagnosis, and a description of the treatment provided with medical necessity for the additional frequency of topical fluoride which must be submitted with the claim for retrospective review and approval of payment. CDT code D9997 must be used to identify an individual with SHCN.

Resources

If you have questions regarding this advisory, please email DHHS.medicaidental@nebraska.gov. Health plans should also copy their contract manager.

Health Plan Advisories, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Heritage-Health-Plan-Advisories.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Health Plan Advisories.