

FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 5
TITLE: DENTAL SERVICES

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1701,1712, and 1724, 38 CFR 17.35, 38 CFR 17.161, and 17.162

RELATED REFERENCE: GC-95-02

I. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

HCPCS Level II Codes: D0120, D0140, D0150, D0160, D0210, D0220-D0230, D0240, D0250-D0260, D0270-D0274, D0290, D0310, D0321, D0330, D0470, D0501, D7110-D7210, D7220, D7230, D7240, D7241, D7250, D7520, D7960

II. POLICY

Dental treatment may be authorized as follows:

1. Class I. Veterans having a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition can receive medically necessary dental treatment to maintain oral health and masticatory function. There is no limitation for making application for treatment or restriction as to the number of repeat episodes of treatments.

2. Class II. Veterans having a service-connected noncompensable dental disability or condition shown to have been in existence at the time of discharge or release from active service, which took place after September 30, 1981, can receive medically necessary treatment for the one-time correction of the service-connected noncompensable condition, but only if:

a. They served on active duty during the Persian Gulf War and were discharged or released, under conditions other than dishonorable, from a period of active military, naval, or air service of not less than 90 days or they were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, from any other period of active military, naval, or air service of not less than 180 days.

b. Application for treatment is received within 90 days following the discharge or release (unless an exception applies to extend this time period).

c. Discharge or release certificate does not certify that the veteran was

provided with a complete examination within the 90-day period preceding the discharge or release.

d. Dental examination is completed within six months of the discharge or release (unless delayed through no fault of the veteran).

3. Class II (a). Those having a service-connected noncompensable dental condition or disability adjudicated as resulting from combat wounds or service trauma may be authorized any treatment indicated as reasonably necessary for the correction of such service-connected noncompensable condition or disability.

4. Class II (c). Dental services and treatment and related dental appliances may be furnished for non service-connected dental condition or disability of any veteran who was held as a prisoner of war for a period of not less than 90 days.

5. Class III. Veterans having a dental condition determined to be aggravating a disability from an associated service-connected condition or disability can receive medically necessary dental treatment for only those dental conditions, which in sound professional judgement is having a direct and material detrimental effect upon the associated basic condition or disability.

6. Class V. A veteran who is participating in a rehabilitation program under 38 USC Chapter 31 may be authorized such dental services if determined to be medically necessary.

III. LIMITATIONS

A. When an application is for Class II dental treatment under 38 CFR 17.161(b) and the applicant is eligible, dental treatment may be authorized on a one-time basis without rating action if:

1. The examination to determine the need for dental care has been accomplished within the specified time limit after date of discharge or release, unless delayed through no fault of the veteran, and sound dental judgement warrants a conclusion that the condition originated in or was aggravated during service, and the condition existed at the time of discharge or release from active service.

2. The treatment does not involve replacement of a missing tooth noted at the time of a Department of Veterans Affairs examination except:

- a. in conjunction with authorized extraction replacement,
- b. when a determination can be made on the basis of sound professional judgement that a tooth was extracted or lost on active duty, or
- c. individuals whose entire tour of duty consisted of active or inactive duty for training shall not be eligible for treatment under this section.

B. Class VI. This is primarily a classification for veteran's residing in the US, who receive treatment for both service-connected and non service-connected conditions in a VA Medical Center. If the veteran is receiving medical care and treatment for a service-connected condition, the veteran may receive dental care that is medically necessary for a dental condition that is complicating the service-connected medical condition.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Class IIR refers to dental treatment for non-compensable dental conditions.

B. Class IV relates to dental treatment solely on the basis of coverage for all medical conditions due to a 100% disability or unemployability rating. The qualification for FMP is that the condition being treated must be service-connected; therefore, non service-connected dental conditions are not covered regardless of the veteran's rating or employability status.

C. Malposed teeth are considered a developmental abnormality and a pre-existing condition. If the malalignment has not occurred as a result of military service, orthodontic care will not be provided.

*** END OF POLICY ***