



## ADVISORY

The South African Dental Association Newsletter  
Informing Oral Healthcare Professionals

Bulletin



### SADA Professional Advisory Bulletin

- Important Update: 2026 Dental Tariff, Benefit Changes & Industry Increases
- Membership renewal reminders for 2026
- Call for participation in a survey
- **Circulation date: 11 December 2025**

Dear Members

#### CLINICAL

### IMPORTANT UPDATE: 2026 DENTAL TARIFF, BENEFIT CHANGES & INDUSTRY INCREASES

As we approach the end of another busy year, we hope this message finds you well and preparing for a well-deserved break. Thank you for your continued commitment to your patients and the profession throughout 2025.

Before we close off the year, SADA would like to share several important updates regarding the 2026 dental tariff adjustments, benefit changes and coding revisions from GEMS, as well as broader industry contribution increases reported for 2026. These developments may influence your clinical and administrative planning for the year ahead.

We trust that this summary will assist you in preparing your practice for a smooth transition into 2026.

#### 1. Industry Contribution Increases for 2026

Recent media reports (IOL and Daily Maverick) indicate the following average-weighted contribution increases across major schemes:

- **Momentum Health Solutions:** 9.9%
- **Fedhealth:** 9.6%
- **Bonitas:** 8.88%
- **Medihelp:** 8.46%
- **Discovery Health:** 7.2% (effective April 2026;  $\pm 5.4\%$  for the full year)
- **Bestmed:** 6.8%
- **Profmed:** 6.8%
- **Sizwe Hosmed:** 19.15% (effective Nov 2025; under curatorship)

#### 2. Dental Professional Fee Increases for 2026

- **GEMS:** 3.1% (network) and 2.85% (non-network)
- **Discovery Health:** 3.8% for dentistry
- **Bestmed:** 5.5% for network and 4.5% for non-network dentists.

SADA will notify members as additional schemes release their 2026 dental tariffs. Tariffs that have already become available will be uploaded to the SADA website under *Clinical Resources*.

### **3. GEMS 2026 Dental Benefit Changes**

#### **3.1 Tanzanite One In-Hospital Benefit Restriction**

From 2026, GEMS will only fund **PMB-qualifying** in-hospital dental procedures for Tanzanite One members. Elective and non-PMB hospital treatments will not be reimbursed.

Key requirements:

- Pre-authorisation required
- Use of network or state DSPs
- Managed care rules apply
- GA for children ≤6 years and removal of impacted teeth still funded
- Out-of-hospital dentistry must be performed by a GEMS Dental Network provider

#### **3.2 Formulary Updates (Tanzanite One & Beryl)**

- New Acute Medication Formulary for Tanzanite One
- Split pathology & radiology formularies:
  - Tanzanite One: Only in-formulary items funded
  - Beryl: Out-of-formulary items allowed with co-payments
- General X-rays and standard histology remain in-formulary
- Only cost-effective generics will be covered under Tanzanite One and Beryl.

#### **3.3 Hospital Network Expansion**

From 2026, **Ruby** members must use GEMS network or state hospitals for planned admissions.

Voluntary non-network use will result in co-payments.

#### **3.4 Shared Dental Limits**

Shared limits for Ruby, Emerald Value, Emerald and Onyx remain unchanged for 2026.

### **4. Coding Changes for 2026**

#### **4.1 Summary of Tariff Code Deletions**

GEMS has approved the deletion of several dental tariff codes effective **31 December 2025**. These include codes that were previously deleted from the SADA Coding manual.

They are:

##### **Implantology**

- Placement of additional implants (9184, 9185)
- Exposure of implants (9191, 9192)
- One-piece orthodontic implant placement (8605)

##### **Orthodontics**

- Consultation & treatment planning (8802)
- Assistance codes: removal of bands, placement of elastics, recementing retainers (8823, 8825, 8829)

##### **Prosthodontics**

- Pontics (8611, 8613, 8615)

- Ceramic retainers for resin-bonded bridges (8618)
- Prefabricated resin crowns (8481)
- Repair of implant-supported resin prosthesis (8593)
- Complete/immediate dentures for prosthodontists only (8643, 8645, 8649)

#### **Surgical / Maxillofacial**

- Corticotomy (8984)
- Radiation carriers, shields, cone locators (9113–9117)
- Multiple procedure/modifier codes (8005, 8013)

#### **Diagnostics**

- Reports on pathological, implant, orthodontic or nerve proximity measurements (8219)

#### **Oral Hygienist Codes (deleted):**

- 8823, 8825, 8829

#### **Previously ended codes (reminder):**

- Flap procedures (8751, 8753, 8755)
- Apicectomies (9015, 9016)
- Trauma management from appliances (8819)

All deleted codes will no longer be claimable from **1 January 2026**. Practitioners should use the latest SADA coding guidelines for alternatives, available on the SADA website for free download by members.

#### **4.2 Denture Age Rule Adjustments**

The minimum age for:

- **8231** (complete maxillary & mandibular dentures)
- **8232** (single-arch complete denture)

has increased from **18 to 21 years** across all relevant GEMS options. Exceptions may be considered on clinical grounds.

#### **5. GEMS Practitioner Portal**

Practitioners are encouraged to register on the **GEMS Healthcare Practitioner Portal** for faster verification, efficient communication and streamlined claims.

Support is available at [ICTServiceDesk@gems.gov.za](mailto:ICTServiceDesk@gems.gov.za).

#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDERS FOR 2026**

- SADA Members' renewal notifications were sent via email on 1 November
- Dental Protection Member renewal notifications were sent via email on 15 November.
- Please check your Spam or Junk folder if you do not see notification/s.
- Ask your ISP to release any email received from the glueup.com domain
- You should have received invoice/s with a link for your payment convenience.

#### **Immediate Online Payment**

- Use the "PAY NOW" button in the email to process your payment securely by Credit card.

- Debit Order (Existing Members) - NO ACTION NEEDED
- If you are already on a debit order, your 2026 renewal will continue seamlessly under the same terms and schedule as 2025.
- First deduction dates: 15 January 2026 or 31 January 2026.
- Debit order administration fee: R44.50, included in your monthly amount.

### **New Debit Order Setup**

For members who are not currently on a debit order but wish to set one up, don't hesitate to email [sadamembership@sada.co.za](mailto:sadamembership@sada.co.za) to request a mandate form. You can also call the membership team on +27 (0)11 484 5288 if you prefer.

**Please note that you need a separate debit order mandate for Dental Protection and SADA memberships.**

### **Important Bank Details**

For EFT, please use the following updated SADA banking details:

Bank: Investec Bank Limited

Branch Code: 58 01 05

Account Number: 10011847744

Reference: Your invoice number ( Very important for quick allocation)

**NOTE: PREVIOUS BANK ACCOUNTS ARE NO LONGER ACTIVE.**

Send your proof of payment to [membershipadmin@sada.co.za](mailto:membershipadmin@sada.co.za)

### **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN A SURVEY**

As a postgraduate student in the field of Paediatric Dentistry in the Department of Odontology, University of Pretoria, I am inviting volunteer participants in our research project on assessing the current knowledge, attitude and practices of oral health practitioners towards e-cigarette use amongst adolescents.

The purpose of the study is to assess oral health practitioners' knowledge, attitude, and practice in identifying and counselling pre-adolescent, and adolescent patients on use of e-cigarettes in the South African context. The study will also assist in identifying barriers that may prevent oral health practitioners from providing counselling.

Completing the questionnaire may take about 7 -10 minutes.

Please only complete the questionnaire if you are a registered, oral health practitioner that is living and working in South Africa, in either the public or private sector. This includes all dental specialists, general dentists, oral hygienists, and dental therapists that are patient facing.

Please complete the survey before 30 December 2025.

Link: [https://pretoria.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8qulwnBvFI8xLgy](https://pretoria.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8qulwnBvFI8xLgy)

As always, SADA remains committed to supporting our members and advocating for fair and sustainable dental benefits across the sector. We wish you a restful and safe festive season, and a prosperous start to 2026. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to dental care in South Africa.

Yours in oral health



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