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SADA Professional Advisory Bulletin

- GEMS changes to claims protocols and benefit rules - effective 1 July 2026
- Please participate in these surveys

Circulation date: 4 June 2026

Dear Members

GEMS CHANGES TO CLAIMS PROTOCOLS AND BENEFIT RULES - EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2026

SADA is aware of the circular issued by GEMS on 29 May 2026, advising dental practitioners of changes to claims protocols and benefit rules with effect from 1 July 2026. We have received correspondence from members regarding these changes, and we understand the frustration that the short notice period and the nature of several of the rule changes have caused.

SADA has formally written to GEMS on your behalf. Our letter, dated 1 June 2026, raises specific concerns about the following:

- The proposed 90-day time restriction on code 8104 (Limited Oral Examination), which SADA submits is clinically incoherent given that the code is, by definition, limited to unplanned, problem-specific presentations.
- The restriction of the periodontal examination code 8176 to patients over the age of 20, which does not align with the clinical presentation of periodontal disease in younger patients.
- The use of a fixed threshold of five restorations per calendar year to trigger mandatory clinical motivation, without adequate account for individual patient complexity.
- The extension of the restoration redo period from two years to three years (1 080 days), for which SADA has formally requested sight of the clinical research and guidelines that GEMS relied upon, including details of the study populations, materials, methodology, and fee structures.

SADA has also requested a formal engagement with GEMS Dental Management before the 1 July 2026 implementation date and has asked that GEMS respond no later than 20 June 2026 to allow sufficient time for engagement.

We will communicate further developments to members as they arise. If you have specific queries in the interim, please contact the SADA office at clinical@sada.co.za

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THESE SURVEYS

Survey Participation Call



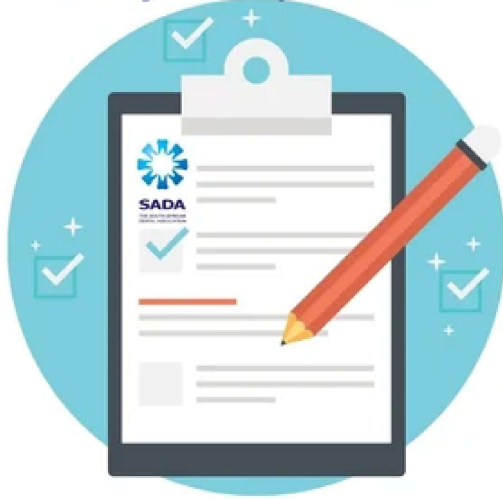
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Survey 2026**

Survey Participation Call



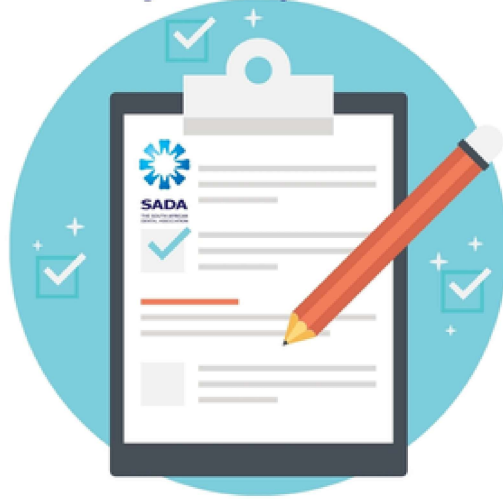
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Survey 2026**

Survey Participation Call



**SADA Community Service Dentist
Survey 2026**

Yours in oral health

Dr Tinesha Parbhoo - Head Clinical Support

Will you be joining your colleagues in Cape Town?



21
Aug

2026 SADA Dental & Oral Health Congress and Exhibition

22
Aug

SADA AWARDS & GRADUAND GALA DINNER 22 August 2026

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