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Dear SADAríte

Welcome to our new format Professional Advisory Bulletin containing all the information which is important in one communication.

CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

As the festive season approaches, we are certain that many of our members are looking forward to a much-needed break and are preparing for a relaxing time with family and friends, in what seems to be the closest return to “normal life” since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The SADA Head Office takes the opportunity of wishing all our members Happy Holidays and all the best for a successful and productive 2023.

1. Changes in GEMS coding as of 1 January 2023

GEMS has advised SADA that, as part of its tariff gap analysis, they will be implementing the following changes in their benefit schedule:

- As of 31 December 2022, the following codes will be deleted from the GEMS schedule for **contracted service providers** only. However, for non-contracted service providers the coding structure will remain as it was in 2022 i.e., codes 8201, 8202, 8213, 8214, 8941, 8943 and 8945 will be retained.

Code deleted	Descriptor of code	Coding to be used instead
8202	Extraction of tooth or exposed tooth roots - each additional tooth per quadrant.	8201 for each extraction, irrespective of tooth number.
8214	Surgical removal of residual tooth roots - each additional tooth per quadrant.	8213 for each surgical removal of residual roots, irrespective of tooth number.
8943	Surgical removal of impacted tooth - second tooth.	8941 for each surgical removal of impacted tooth, irrespective of tooth number.
8945	Surgical removal of impacted tooth – third and subsequent tooth.	8941 for each surgical removal of impacted tooth, irrespective of tooth number.

- Since implants are a scheme exclusion by GEMS and are payable only as part of ex-gratia approved claims or in PMB cases, the following codes will be retained for **both contracted and non-contracted service providers**:

Code deleted	Descriptor of code
9184	Surgical placement of endosseus implant - second per quadrant.
9185	Surgical placement of endosseus implant – third and subsequent per quadrant.
9191	Surgical exposure of endosseus implant - second per quadrant.
9192	Surgical exposure of endosseus implant – third and subsequent per quadrant.

- The following general practitioner codes that appear in both the GP and respective specialist schedules will not be accepted if claimed by that particular specialist group. GEMS requires that the specialist claims the code relevant to their specialty only and not the GP code:

Code	Descriptor	Practice Type	Relevant code to be used
8213	Surgical removal of residual roots, first tooth per quadrant	62	8953
8176	Periodontal examination	92	8703
8104	Limited oral examination	62/64/92/94	8901/8801/8701/8501
8190	Consultation – second opinion or advice	62/64/92/94	8901 or 8902 – MS (62) 8801 – OR (64) 8701 or 8703 or 8705 – OMP (92) 8501 or 8507 – PR (94)

- The following codes in the scope of Oral Hygiene will be remunerated at the same tariff as that of GP dentists:

Code	Descriptor
8107	Intraoral radiograph – periapical

8112	Intraoral radiograph – bitewing
8108	Intraoral radiographs/images – complete series
8115	Panoramic radiograph/image
8145	Local anaesthetic – per visit

- The following codes in the scope of Dental Therapy will be remunerated at the same tariff as that of GP dentists:

Code	Descriptor
8107	Intraoral radiograph – periapical
8112	Intraoral radiograph – bitewing
8115	Panoramic radiograph/image
8737	Root planing – four or more teeth per quadrant
8739	Root planing – one to three teeth per quadrant
8145	Local anaesthetic – per visit

2. Other schemes and MCOs that have accepted the deleted subsequent codes to date

- Both DENIS and CAMAF have accepted the deletions of all the subsequent codes put forth by SADA as of 1 January 2023 i.e., codes 8202, 8943, 8945, 8214, 9184, 9185, 9191 and 9192. This means that **only the initial code** is billed, irrespective of tooth number for these schemes.
- De Beers Benefit Society have only accepted the deletions of 8202, 8943 and 8945. Each of the other subsequent codes will be retained.

SADA remains optimistic that as the new tariffs for 2023 are published, many more of the schemes will have accepted the changes implemented by SADA. Members will be kept informed as and when these changes occur.

Kind Regards

Dr T Parbhoo – SADA Clinical Support Services Email: clinical@sada.co.za

Mr P Govan – SADA Legal & Corporate Department Email: legal@sada.co.za

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Tel: +27 11 484 5288

E-mail: info@sada.co.za

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