

Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribal Health

Policy and Procedure – Health Services/Purchased and Referred Care

SUBJECT: Dental Care and Services

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to determine eligibility for dental clinic services and to outline the referral process for dental patients who require specialized dental care.

POLICY: The PGST Dental Clinic adheres to the established eligibility guidelines for ‘direct care’ or PRC membership. PRC members are eligible for all services. Members of the Suquamish Tribe who have Medicaid coverage, may receive Levels 1-6 care. If no additional coverage can be verified, care is provided for Level 1-3. (See **Additional Information** for care level definitions).

Direct care patients are limited to Levels 1-3 in the clinic, and may be referred for dental services needed at a level of care 4-6. When direct care patients are referred for other services, Dental Clinic Staff must inform patients that care expenses incurred are the responsibility of the patient.

PROCEDURES: After examination by a PGST dental provider and a care plan has been developed, a referral is generated if specialized care is identified as necessary for a dental specialist to perform.

Dental Specialist Referral: The PRC staff will verify that the patient is eligible for PRC coverage. The PRC staff may authorize the specialist to bill the PRC program. Dental staff must verify the services are preauthorized by the patient’s dental insurance coverage. Dental Clinic staff may assist eligible members with the preauthorization process. Referral decisions are made on a case-by-case basis depending upon the clinical care needed, existing expertise, and the patient’s explicit preference.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PGST Dental clinic uses the following care criteria:

Level 1: Emergent or urgent dental care: includes exam and radiographs, simple extraction, palliative procedures, medication, care of oral abscesses.

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Level 2: Preventive Oral Health Services: includes prophylaxis, topical fluoride application, sealants, oral hygiene education, periodontal recall, tracking for special needs.

Level 3: Basic Oral Health Services: includes periodic oral exam, radiographs, crown buildup, direct restorations, pulpotomy, anterior endodontics and root canal of single canal premolars, scaling/root planning, biopsy or excision of lesion.

Level 4: Basic Oral Rehabilitation Services: includes complex restorations, crowns, posts/core restorations, endodontics (two canal), apicoectomy/retrograde filling, gingivoplasty, limited interceptive orthodontics.

Level 5: Rehabilitation Services: includes molar endodontics, limited periodontal surgery, dentures, fixed bridgework, surgical extractions, analgesia

Level 6: Complex rehabilitation: includes cephalometric or TMJ radiographs, occlusal adjustments, limited periodontal surgery, overdentures, consultation for specialty dental services, precision attachment prosthetics, orthodontics, surgical extractions, prosthetics, anesthesia.

Approval: _____	_____	_____	_____
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