

April 23, 2024

Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) Policy Regarding Clients' Existing Dentures

The purpose of this document is to provide information on the CDCP policy with respect to a clients' existing dentures. Please refer to the [CDCP Dental Benefits Guide](#) and [Dental Benefit Grids](#) for detailed information regarding the CDCP's coverage of dentures.

Policy Regarding Existing Client Dentures

The CDCP policy is that a client's existing denture(s), that were obtained outside of the CDCP is not considered when the CDCP is applying frequency limits or other plan rules.

As the CDCP is a new program, it will not initially have client claims history. This means that clients may be eligible for new dentures under the CDCP even if they already have dentures. Note that the CDCP also covers repairs, relines, rebases and additions of teeth to dentures, which may be suitable alternatives to meet clients' needs instead of fabricating new dentures. Repairs, relines, rebases and additions of teeth can be done on clients' existing dentures. Where possible, Health Canada encourages providers to consider these alternatives before recommending a new complete or partial denture.

Application of Policy for Complete Dentures

The CDCP covers complete dentures (complete standard, complete provisional/transitional, complete immediate, and complete overdentures).

The CDCP will not consider a client's existing complete denture (obtained outside of the CDCP) when determining frequency limits. This means that a new CDCP client could be eligible for a new complete denture even if they have an existing complete denture that was made and paid for outside the CDCP.

Frequency limits for complete dentures are as follows:

- Complete standard: 1 in 8 years (no preauthorization required).
- Complete provisional/transitional: 1 per lifetime (no preauthorization required).
- Complete immediate: 1 in 8 years (preauthorization required).
- Complete overdentures: 1 in 8 years (preauthorization required).

The CDCP may consider more frequent replacement of dentures in specific circumstances, through preauthorization. Requests for preauthorization will be available beginning in November 2024.

Application of Policy for Partial Dentures

The CDCP covers partial dentures, including various acrylic and cast prostheses. The initial placement of a partial denture requires preauthorization; the replacement of a CDCP-paid partial denture does not require preauthorization as long as it meets frequency limits. For further clarity, the initial placement of a partial denture must have been covered under the CDCP for a replacement to be covered without preauthorization. This means that all partial dentures covered by the CDCP at the onset of the plan will require preauthorization. Preauthorization requests can be submitted beginning November 2024.

The CDCP will not consider a client's existing partial denture (obtained outside of the CDCP) when determining whether a partial denture is a replacement or an initial placement, or when considering frequency limits. This means that a new CDCP client could be eligible for a new partial denture even if they have an existing partial denture obtained outside of the CDCP; eligibility for a new partial denture would be based on preauthorization.

- A client's first partial denture claimed under the CDCP will be considered an initial placement and will require preauthorization. Services that require preauthorization will be available beginning in November 2024.
- A partial denture will only be considered a replacement if it is replacing a partial denture that was covered under the CDCP; it will not require preauthorization if it meets the frequency limits published in the CDCP Dental Benefits Guide.

Frequency limits for partial dentures are as follows:

- Partial acrylic dentures: 1 in 5 years.
- Partial cast dentures: 1 in 8 years.

When there are changes in oral conditions, and if changes to an existing partial denture are not feasible, a new partial denture may be required. The new partial denture will be considered an initial placement and will require preauthorization.

The CDCP may consider more frequent replacement of dentures in specific circumstances through preauthorization. Requests for preauthorization will be available beginning in November 2024.