

Dr. Bheki

Please find my suggestions regarding the expansion of code 8159 (scaling and polishing). Any dental professional performing this code would know to charge a patient with limited dentition versus a patient with full dentition and excessive calculus formation doesn't warrant the same price for the operator nor is it fair to the patient. I urge the coding committee to urgently look into this and if we have to discuss this in a forum I am available to help formulate an expanded coding for 8159.

My suggestion is to categorize this code and to weigh a code financially bring in time and severity factors. We also find that very few medical aid companies pay for oral hygiene instructions (8151) and thus deny the oral hygiene profession the most crucial and important task in their profession but also their clients education on how to look after and prevent dental problems. My suggestion in this category incorporate the code 8151 in a category.

Current codes: 8159	scaling and polishing of teeth	R192.60 (Discovery price)
8160	removal of gross calculus	no price suggestion – this still takes an amount of time and usually is done on periodontally compromised patients before deep scaling
8151	oral hygiene instructions	R97.90 (Discovery price)

My suggestions are as follows:

8159a electronic removal of calculus and plaque (this category is usually where a dentist and therapist removes calculus while waiting to perform another task. Time usually less than 15min) R base minus half

8159b electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque (only limited dentition mandible or maxilla)
R base minus half

8159c electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque (only limited dentition mandible or maxilla) including oral hygiene instructions R base

8159d electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque (subgingival class 1)
R base

8159e electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque (subgingival class 1)) including oral hygiene instructions
base plus half R

8159f electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque (subgingival class 2)
R base plus half

8159g electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque (subgingival class 2)) including oral hygiene instructions
base x 2 R

8159h electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque and any extrinsic staining due to smoking or medication
base x 2 R

8159i electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque and any extrinsic staining due to smoking or medication including oral hygiene instructions
base x 2 plus half R

8159j electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque on implants alone
R base plus half

8159k electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque on implants including oral hygiene instructions
R base x 2

8159l electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque on implants including patients own teeth
R base

8159m electronic and manual removal of calculus and plaque on implants including patients own teeth including oral hygiene instructions
base plus half R

8160 removal of gross calculus (this procedure takes place before a periodontally compromised patient goes into rehabilitation procedures)
R base

These are only suggestions and could be altered. Add this to the suggestions for tariffs committee

I thank you for your time

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