

The Memorandum to PCA(D)(2020)10, issued on 10th July 2020, instructed that, for general dentistry, courses of treatment which were started under Amendment No. 143 to the SDR and which could not be completed because they contained items of treatment not included in Amendment No. 145 should be closed and submitted to Practitioner Services marked as PFTR. This included any prior approval cases. We are aware that this was not done in all cases.

For previously approved treatment, started under SDR 143 or earlier, which remains open

If the case has been approved and there is no change to the treatment plan, then the dentist can complete without resubmitting and on completion can submit for payment. Where the treatment plan has changed re-approval will be required.

Where previously approved treatment was marked as PFTR and the case closed –

For cases which were previously approved (i.e. prior to lockdown) and were closed as PFTR and submitted as payment claims then there is no way to "re-open" them.

A new course of treatment should be commenced and where the treatment to be delivered requires prior approval in accordance with Amendment No. 148 to the SDR and the Regulations, a fresh prior approval submission is required. This will require full observations, and clinical photos, study models and appropriate radiographs as required.

Currently Dental Advisers are working from home and have limited access to the office. Photographs of study models taken from front, left and right views in centric occlusion may be sufficient, however the Dental Adviser may additionally request you to send the models in for further assessment.

Please note that the prior approval limit has been increased to £430 for courses of treatment with an acceptance date on or after 1 November 2020.

Where a treatment plan was closed during the Covid SDR period, some treatment plans may have already been at the maximum patient charge level or nearing the limit. If the patient is now coming back to the practice to continue treatment under SDR148, it will be regarded as a new course of treatment because the acceptance date on the new claim will be on or after 1 November 2020. The combined patient charge total of both these claims may take the patient over the maximum patient statutory charges limit, so to avoid the patient being penalised, please add the following observations to your claim so that our operational team can ensure no further patient charge beyond the maximum is deducted:

“Previous claim closed due to COVID. The previous claim and this claim will take patient charge over max – please amend”

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED TREATMENT

(under SDR 143 or earlier)

TREATMENT PLAN STILL OPEN

TREATMENT PLAN PFTR

- CONTINUE TREATMENT AND SUBMIT FOR PAYMENT ON COMPLETION
- IF TREATMENT PLAN HAS CHANGED RE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED

CASE CLOSED

Patient returns for continuation of treatment

NEW ACCEPTANCE DATE

PRIOR APPROVAL
£430

Required treatment requires prior approval

Required treatment does not require prior approval

NEW COURSE OF TREATMENT
(acceptance date on or after 1st November 2020)

- Requires fresh prior approval submission
- Appropriate observations
- Attach any clinical photographs (updated as required) and appropriate radiographs
- Study models required as necessary – please initially provide clinical photographs of these in centric occlusion from front, left and right views. Dental Adviser may additionally request these to be sent into Practitioner Services for full assessment.

CONTINUE TREATMENT AND SUBMIT FOR PAYMENT ON COMPLETION

MAXIMUM PATIENT CHARGE (£384)

- If combined patient charge total takes the patient over the maximum patient statutory charges limit, add the following to the claim:
- *“Previous claim closed due to COVID. The previous claim and this claim will take patient charge over max – please amend”*