



Royal College
of Surgeons
ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

Activity Coding in Orthodontics

Information for Secondary Care Trusts

Version 2.0 Published 18 March 2020

For further information, please visit: www.gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk

Foreword



The *Getting It Right First Time* workstream for hospital dentistry, led by Liz Jones, has given our specialty a window into national activity never seen before in such depth. Liz visited 106 dental services in England, meeting with their Clinical leads and management, to look in depth at their activity and safety. The process has been lengthy, opening some robust and frank discussions, but it is designed to improve the quality of care within the NHS by reducing unwarranted variations.

Variation was quickly identified as a theme in orthodontics, with a lack of meaningful data on activity within many units. Clarifying the guidance on coding for Trusts and health professionals could improve the quality of data and reduce unwarranted variation. With this goal, Liz came to me as chair of the Consultant Orthodontist Group, to ask for our help to improve the situation.

The idea of GIRFT is not simply to tell us if we are 'getting it right', since that is often not the case, but to identify the areas where we can improve towards the ideal of getting it right first time, every time.

In COG we aim to listen to our members, advise and support them as well as work with national bodies to sustain the future of the secondary care service. We value your comments on implementing this guidance on coding, which will inform our dialogue with the GIRFT Coding Project and NHS Digital. Your input will support us to argue effectively for the additional codes we require.

Within your own units we hope it will stimulate discussion on data capture and auditable activity, providing you with better evidence to use in meetings with your commissioners.

I am very grateful to our COG members for their response to my queries into the use of coding and their experiences of working with coding teams within their own Trusts. The small working group spent many hours discussing, differing and converging our thoughts on coding to produce and agree the booklet you now see.

My heartfelt thanks go to Karen, Ellie, Chris and Jay for their input, as well as to Sue for her clarity and knowledge of the coding bible. My thanks also to Liz for her enthusiasm and drive to see this to fruition.



Helen Travess

Chair, Consultant Orthodontist Group

Guidance on coding of common orthodontic procedures.

When patient activity is recorded for out-patient attendances, codes are recorded that identify whether the activity is for a new patient attendance or follow up attendance, as well as multidisciplinary attendance in both those categories for our joint clinics. The procedure codes (codes from the OPCS classification) are used where procedural activity has taken place. (These may be referred to as PROC codes.)

More than one OPCS code can be inputted per activity. These are grouped by NHS software to a single Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) code which then attracts a nationally agreed tariff. The tariff attached to the HRG replaces the standard attendance tariff.

The COG working group for coding have confirmed definitions for the codes set in the OPCS manual, and are issuing guidance on how to 'ideally' code for the procedures we undertake in our services. The guidance is not all encompassing, but we hope covers the main procedures happening across the secondary care service.

The deployment of SNOMED, at some point in future, will hopefully improve the quality of data available. The timeline for implementing SNOMED is of course uncertain, and it does not diminish the importance of making immediate improvements to the data we will be using for the foreseeable future for quality improvement purposes.

We acknowledge that changes to coding procedure could have an impact on tariff setting and potentially income related to the activity. Providers and commissioners should discuss the impact of any changes and agree an appropriate local solution. It is important that all consultants and their teams follow this guidance and use the codes as suggested in this booklet. We very much hope you are willing to do so.

The hard part comes in taking this to your colleagues, Trust coding team, IT support and most importantly your administrative team, to implement the guidance.

Each Trust will identify its own method of capturing the PROC codes and inputting the data.

It is essential that as clinicians we drive this change, and audit our activity.

COG / GIRFT Coding working Group Dec 2019

Liz Jones	GIRFT National Clinical Lead
Sue Eve-Jones	GIRFT Clinical Coding Lead
Helen Travess	Consultant Orthodontist, COG chair
Karen Juggins	Consultant Orthodontist
Ellie Thickett	Consultant Orthodontist
Chris Barker	Consultant Orthodontist
Jay Kindelan	Consultant Orthodontist , RCS rep

Definitions of orthodontic PROC codes

OPCS code (PROC)	OPCS code Definition	Inclusions	Exclusions
F14.1	Insertion of fixed orthodontic appliance	Start of active treatment with fixed appliance - bond up of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sectional, • single or • double arch including molar tubes or bands.	Excluding mid treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bracket additions – use F15.6 • replacements - use F15.2 • fixed retainer placement at end of active treatment – use F14.3
F14.2	Insertion of movable orthodontic appliance	Insertion of any removable appliance , - including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • URA, removable habit breaker, removable space maintainer • functional appliance, • removable sleep apnoea appliance • retainers Also including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re fit of a repair of removable appliance 	
F14.3	Insertion of orthodontic appliance NEC	Fit of any additional fixed appliance element in addition to main bond up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPA/Nance Arch/Quad Helix/RME • fixed class II device/ fixed habit breaker/fixed space maintainer • fixed retainer 	
F14.4	Removal of orthodontic appliance NEC	Debond - complete removal of orthodontic appliance at the completion of active treatment . - removal of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sectional • single arch • double arch • interceptive fixed • removal of molar bands or tubes 	Excluding removal of partial fixed device <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPA/ Quad/ RME/ fixed class II device etc - use F15.7
F14.5	Surgical exposure of tooth	Open exposure of impacted tooth or closed exposure with gold chain placement on impacted tooth	
F14.6	Insertion of orthodontic anchorage	Fit TAD fixed orthodontic anchorage Any number	
F14.7	Removal of orthodontic anchorage	Remove TAD fixed orthodontic anchorage Any number	

OPCS code (PROC)	OPCS code Definition	Inclusions	Exclusions
F14.8	Other specified orthodontic operations	PLEASE DO NOT USE Only for use if the intervention is not covered elsewhere in the table	
F14.9	Unspecified orthodontic operations	PLEASE DO NOT USE Only for use if the intervention is not covered elsewhere in the table	
F15.1	Creation of orthodontic impression	Impression or digital scan of the mouth	
F15.2	Fitting of orthodontic bracket	Additional fitting/replacement of bracket or bands within treatment (single or multiple) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fitting second molars bands or tubes, bracket or band repairs bracket or band repositioning 	Excluding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bond up - use F14.1
F15.3	Fitting of orthodontic headgear	Initial fit of headgear	
F15.4	Fitting of orthodontic separators	Placement of separators (any number, at any time)	
F15.5	Adjustment of orthodontic device	Adjustment and/or review of orthodontic appliance including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed appliance adjustment also including Quad/RME etc removable including URA, functionals, retainers, etc headgear adjust <p>within an active treatment phase</p>	
F15.6	Repair of orthodontic appliance	Any repair of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fixed or removable appliance 	
F15.7	Debonding of orthodontic bracket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of any individual orthodontic bracket or band for repositioning removal of fixed device eg RME /quad/TPA/nance/fixd cl II device/lingual arch 	Excluding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> end of treatment debond - use F14.4 repair of patient debonded bracket mid treatment – use F15.6
F15.8	Other specified other orthodontic operations	DO NOT USE	
F15.9	Unspecified other orthodontic operations	DO NOT USE	

Codes F14.8 and F14.9 are legitimate codes in the OPCS classification. Our recommendation is that they are not used if the intervention is covered elsewhere in the table.

Other dental codes commonly used in Orthodontics			
OPCS code (PROC)	OPCS code Definition	Inclusions	Exclusions
F16.7	Polishing of teeth	Use of a handpiece to polish, clean or prepare tooth surfaces (including slow and fast handpieces)	
F16.4	Scaling of Teeth	Use of hand held or ultrasonic scalers	
F16.6	Application of topical fluoride	Hygienist/therapist or Orthodontist applying topical fluoride to teeth	
F40.5	Removal of sutures from mouth NEC	Removal of sutures (any number)	
F42.4	Photography of mouth	Photographic record of patient care taken by the clinician as part of the appointment	Excluding photographs taken by a medical photography department (unless not independently claimed)
F42.5	Recording of jaw relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording of jaw relationship as part of face bow record. wafer try in as part of orthognathic care 	Excluding wax bite with impressions for study models as part of routine records
U04.1	Bitewing radiology	Bitewing Radiograph taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.2	Periapical radiology	Periapical radiograph (LCPA) taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.3	Occlusal radiology	Upper standard, oblique or lower occlusal radiograph taken in the department (USO/LSO)	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.4	Lateral oblique jaw radiology	Lateral Cephalogram Radiograph taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.8	Other specified diagnostic imaging of mouth	OPG radiograph taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.9	Unspecified diagnostic imaging of mouth	CBCT or other 3D scan imaging of teeth taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology

Guidance on coding for common orthodontic procedures

ORTHODONTIC PROCEDURE	Main code	Additional codes	
PRE TREATMENT			
Records	F15.1 Creation of orthodontic impression		
Photographs	F42.4 Photography of mouth		
Xrays IF taken in dept	U04.1 Bitewing radiology	U04.8 Other specified diagnostic imaging of mouth	U04.9 Unspecified diagnostic imaging of mouth
	BWs	OPG	CBCT
	U04.2 Periapical radiology	U04.4 Lateral oblique jaw radiology	
	LCPA	Ceph	
	U04.3 Occlusal radiology		
	USO/LSO		
Scan of mouth (intraoral scanner)	F15.1 Creation of orthodontic impression		
Intra Oral Scaling	F16.4 Scaling of Teeth by hand, or ultrasonic scaling		
Topical application of fluoride	F16.6 Application of topical fluoride		

Please note: there is no specific OPCS - PROC code for Oral hygiene instruction.

ORTHODONTIC PROCEDURE	Main code	Additional codes
START OF TREATMENT		
Fit URA/removable habit breaker/removable space maintainer	F14.2 Insertion of movable orthodontic appliance	
Fit functional/removable Sleep Apnoea Device	F14.2 Insertion of movable orthodontic appliance	
Fit fixed device Nance arch/TPA/lingual arch/Quad helix/ fixed class II device /fixed habit breaker/fixed space maintainer	F14.3 Insertion of orthodontic appliance NEC	
Fit bonded or banded RME	F14.3 Insertion of orthodontic appliance NEC	
Bond up single arch, including molar tubes or bands at Start of active treatment	F14.1 Insertion of fixed orthodontic appliance	F16.7 Polishing of teeth if handpiece used
Bond up two arches, including molar tubes or bands at Start of active treatment	F14.1 Insertion of fixed orthodontic appliance	F16.7 Polishing of teeth if handpiece used
Sectional bond up, including molar tubes or bands at	F14.1 Insertion of fixed orthodontic appliance	F16.7 Polishing of teeth if handpiece used
Fit TAD (any number)	F14.6 Insertion of orthodontic anchorage	
Place separators (any number)	F15.4 Fitting of orthodontic separators	
Fit molar bands BUT if part of bond up @ start of treatment - use F14.1	F15.2 Fitting of orthodontic bracket • addition of second molar bands mid Rx, • use of molar band mid Rx due to repeated breakages of molar tubes	F16.7 Polishing of teeth if handpiece used
Fit headgear	F15.3 Fitting of orthodontic headgear	

ORTHODONTIC PROCEDURE	Main code	Additional codes		
DURING TREATMENT				
Fixed appliance adjustment appt	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device			
Adjustment of URA/functional / Fixed cl II device etc	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device			
Twin block advancement	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device	F15.1 Creation of orthodontic impression		
Adjust headgear	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device			
Fixed appliance adjust with bracket reposition (requires active removal to reposition)	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device	F15.7 Debonding of orthodontic bracket	F16.7 Polishing of teeth If handpiece used	F15.2 Fitting of orthodontic bracket
Fixed appliance adjust with bracket rebond as repair within routine appt	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device	F15.6 Repair of orthodontic appliance	F16.7 Polishing of teeth If handpiece used	F15.2 Fitting of orthodontic bracket
Impressions for model surgery and facebow registration	F42.5 Recording of jaw relationship	F15.1 Creation of orthodontic impression		
Model Surgery and wafer check. Jaw registration check	F42.5 Recording of jaw relationship			
Removal of fixed device Nance arch / TPA/Lingual arch/ Quad helix/ fixed class II device / fixed habit breaker / fixed space maintainer etc	F15.7 Debonding of orthodontic bracket	F16.7 Polishing of teeth If handpiece used		
Removal of bonded or banded RME	F15.7 Debonding of orthodontic bracket	F16.7 Polishing of teeth If handpiece used		

ORTHODONTIC PROCEDURE	Main Code	Additional Codes	
EMERGENCIES DURING TREATMENT			
Emergency appointment wire issues/other FA issue such as power chain replacement, recement of bands/fixed device	F15.6 Repair of orthodontic appliance		
Emergency appointment bracket rebond as repair	F15.6 Repair of orthodontic appliance	F16.7 Polishing of teeth If handpiece used	F15.2 Fitting of orthodontic bracket
Emergency appointment removable appliance breakage	F15.6 Repair of orthodontic appliance	F15.1 Creation of orthodontic impression	
Emergency appointment Adjustment of removable appliance	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device (including trimming of acrylic)		
Emergency appointment fit repair of removable appliance	F14.2 Insertion of movable orthodontic appliance		
review post surgical exposure with active trimming of gold chain	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device if gold chain is trimmed		F40.5 removal of suture from mouth NEC

ORTHODONTIC PROCEDURE	Main code	Additional codes		
END OF TREATMENT				
Removal of TAD (any number)	F14.7 Removal of orthodontic anchorage			
Debond at end of active treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sectional arch • one arch or • two arches • including removal of molar bands 				
F14.4 Removal of orthodontic appliance NEC	F16.7 Polishing of teeth If handpiece used	F15.1 Creation of orthodontic impression	F14.3 Insertion of orthodontic appliance NEC If fixed retainer placed	F42.4 Photography of mouth
Fit retainers	F14.2 Insertion of movable orthodontic appliance			
Review/adjust retainers	F15.5 Adjustment of orthodontic device			
Insertion of fixed retainer	F14.3 Insertion of orthodontic appliance NEC			
Repair of fixed retainer	F15.6 Repair of orthodontic appliance	F16.7 Polishing of teeth if handpiece used		
Replacement of fixed retainer with insertion of new fixed retainer wire	F14.3 Insertion of orthodontic appliance NEC	F16.7 Polishing of teeth if handpiece used		

ORTHODONTIC PROCEDURE	Main code
ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY	
Removal of sutures (any number)	F40.5 Removal of suture from mouth NEC
Surgical exposure of an impacted tooth with or without gold chain fitting.	F14.5 Surgical exposure of tooth
Extraction of one tooth	F10.9 Unspecified Simple extraction of tooth
Extraction of multiple teeth	F10.4 Extraction of multiple teeth NEC
Repositioning of tooth post trauma	F08.4 Repositioning of tooth
Replantation of avulsed tooth	F08.3 Replantation of tooth
Splinting of teeth post trauma	F63.5 Splinting of teeth