

## **Important Information Regarding The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)**

Beginning May 1st, eligible Canadians can receive dental benefits from the Canadian Dental Care Program (CDCP). The announcement by the federal government was in December of 2023. Since then, there have been many concerns and questions from both patients and dentists regarding this new program. We highly recommend that you read all the fine print and ask any questions that you have regarding this federal program before dropping any existing insurance plan that you may have. There are many people that have been led to believe that this program ensures them free dental care, which is not the case.

Unfortunately, this is not an uncomplicated endeavor for all parties involved. While we do understand many individuals who have signed up for this new plan are excited to utilize the coverage, we would like to share some considerations and our current position.

### **Do we accept CDCP coverage?**

Currently, Signature Dentistry does not accept CDCP coverage.

### **Why are most offices not signing up to accept CDCP benefits?**

The CDCP does not operate like a typical dental insurance plan. Typical insurance plans encourage a relationship between the patient and the dentist. The CDCP shifts that relationship towards the insurance company (Sun Life) and the dentist instead. As well, dentists across Canada are being encouraged by their governing associations to wait until more information is available before agreeing to participate. Most dentists across the country and in Alberta have not yet agreed to participate.

### **What is my coverage under the CDCP?**

The CDCP is based on household income amounts. The coverage amounts are based on Sun Life dental fee guides, and not the Alberta Dental Association (ADA) Fee Guide or dental office fee guides. Even if patients fall under 100% coverage, it is unclear if this reflects true 100% coverage, and if major dental treatments are included. Also, we are unable to send predeterminations for major treatment until November which creates a very difficult situation and could result in many "surprises" for both patient and dentist.

### **Will Signature Dentistry accept CDCP coverage in the future?**

There have been changes to the original program with many variables along the way. Many dentists, including Dr. Johnson and Dr. Challis, are following the recommendations set out by their governing bodies, the Alberta Dental Association (ADA) and the Canadian Dental Association (CDA). So, at this time, we are choosing not to participate in the CDCP until we can gather more information or as directed by our governing bodies.

We hope you understand our position. We value you and your dental health and ask for your patience going forward. We want to ensure our patients are provided with the best possible dental care.

Thank you,

The Signature Dentistry Team