



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Non-Insured Health Benefits Program: Revised Orthodontic Policy

On June 15, 2018, the NIHB Orthodontic Policy was revised to include consideration of pain and discomfort when associated with a severe and functionally handicapping malocclusion. This will result in a more timely and increased access to services for First Nations and Inuit children. For ease of reference, please refer to the highlighted sections below which indicate the policy changes. The complete policy can be found in the Dental Benefits Guide online at canada.ca/nihb.

Orthodontic Policy

8.8.2. Client Eligibility and Clinical Criteria

- **Client Age Eligibility**

Children:

- Under 18 years of age that meet the clinical criteria of a severe and functionally handicapping malocclusion, **taking into consideration any clinical evidence associated with the child's condition that impacts the child**

Adults:

- 18 years of age and over with a dentofacial anomaly (e.g., cleft lip and palate) and that meet the clinical criteria of a severe and functionally handicapping malocclusion

- **Client Oral Health Status**

- Client has been caries-free for a period of six (6) months prior to submitting the predetermination request; in other words, all basic dental treatment addressing any existing caries, must be completed six (6) months prior to submission; and
- Client has maintained a good oral hygiene for a period of six (6) months prior to submitting the predetermination request.

- **Clinical Criteria**

To be eligible for coverage for orthodontic treatment, a client's condition must meet **any** one of the following clinical criteria:

- crossbite associated with a significant and clear functional shift
- severe overbite with evident soft tissue injury (> 2/3 overlap with impinging

of the palate)

- severe open bite ($\geq 5\text{mm}$)
- severe overjet, positive ($\geq 7\text{mm}$) or negative ($\leq -4\text{mm}$)
- lack of function of posterior teeth and no anterior guidance

- **pain/discomfort associated with a severe and functionally handicapping malocclusion**

For information, dental providers can also contact the Dental Predetermination Centre, Orthodontic Services, at 1-866-227-0943.