



Delta Dental of Colorado Hypertension Identification Program FAQ

The Hypertension Identification Program (HIP) reimburses general and periodontist dental offices that perform blood pressure screenings at routine preventive visits **for CU Health Plan (CUHP), Jefferson County School District, and Larimer County members who are at least 20 years old.**

Q: Who can participate in this program?

A: All general practitioners and periodontists who see patients in groups #11386 (Larimer County), group #1055 (Jefferson County School District), and #12026 (CU Health Plan), its sub-groups of retirees, and CUHP COBRA members can participate.

Q: What's the compensation received for taking blood pressure readings during preventive visits?

A: DDCO will pay \$9 for blood pressure readings taken during preventive dental visits, limited to twice per year, for members who are at least 20 years old and part of participating groups.

Q: What equipment do I need in order to participate?

A: The only equipment that is needed is a digital, aneroid, or mercury sphygmomanometer (blood pressure cuff). DDCO will provide a free cuff to the first 50 highly utilized providers for Larimer County members who sign up on our website. Any sphygmomanometer can be used to participate, it does not need to be the one provided by DDCO.

Q: How are the blood pressure readings submitted?

A: Enter the customized procedure code onto your claim in the Procedure Code section on a paper claim and Proc section on an electronic claim, according to the level of your patient's hypertension. Customized procedure codes are as follows:

Submit this code...	...if the patient is...	...with this fee.
D0010	Normal: < 120/ AND /< 80	\$9
D0020	Elevated: 120-129/ AND < than 80	\$9
D0030	Hypertensive I: 130-139/ OR 80-89	\$9
D0040	Hypertensive II: 140 OR > 90	\$9
D0050	Hypertensive Crisis* > 180 AND/OR > 120	\$9

* Have this patient seen by a medical provider immediately.

Q: What do I do with the Hypertension Identification Program (HIP) Patient Form?

A: Submit one copy of the form with your claim as an attachment in the usual way in which you submit claim forms, either through the Delta Dental of Colorado Web portal at deltadentalco.com, via your clearinghouse, or mail to PO Box 713803, Denver, CO 80237. The other copy of the patient form should go to the patient.

Q: What information should I give my patients?

A: Patients should receive a copy of the completed Hypertension Identification Program (HIP) Patient Form. You should also discuss what their blood pressure reading means and the importance of a normal blood pressure reading. Patients who have a blood pressure reading considered elevated and above should be referred to their primary care physician for follow up care. For Larimer County patients with elevated blood pressure readings and above, you should refer them to the Larimer County health clinic:

The Wellness Clinic

2601 Midpoint Drive, Suite 100

Fort Collins, CO

Phone: 970-980-2425

Marathon-health.com

The **HIP toolkit** provides tips and additional resources about the importance of blood pressure.

Q: What should I do if my patient is in a hypertensive crisis (> 180 and/or > 120)?

A: Patients in a hypertensive crisis need immediate care and 911 should be called.

Q: Is the patient paying for this \$9 amount?

A: No, and it doesn't come out of their benefit maximums.

Q: Where is the Hypertension Identification Program (HIP) toolkit?

A: The toolkit can be downloaded from the Delta Dental of Colorado website at **deltadentalco.com/dentists.aspx**. Scroll down to the section titled Hypertension Identification Program and click HIP Toolkit to download and save. The Hypertension Identification Program (HIP) Patient Form can be found on the last page of the toolkit. You can also visit this link directly: **deltadentalco.com/HIPregistration.aspx**.

Q: How do we register the providers in our office to participate in the program?

A: Registration for the program is completed online. Visit the Delta Dental of Colorado website at **deltadentalco.com/dentists.aspx**. Scroll down to the section titled Hypertension Identification Program. Click on Learn more. Scroll down to the section that reads: Sign up to participate in the HIP program by completing the **Hypertension Identification Program Registration Form**. The link will take you to the form that will need to be completed. You will need to enter information for each provider in your office along with all the information requested in each line item. Once you submit the registration, you will receive an automated email with more information and a link to download the HIP toolkit.

Q: What is the importance of hypertension readings?

A: Our mouths are connected to our bodies and medical/dental integration is the future. Patients typically visit their dental providers more often than their physicians, and we might be able to help save a life. High blood pressure (hypertension) is one of the most prevalent—but frequently undiagnosed—conditions in the United States. High blood pressure can put individuals at higher risk for heart attack, stroke, heart failure, and other serious health issues. Because high blood pressure is largely symptom-free, many people may not even be aware that they have it. Hypertension affects nearly 50 million people in the United States and underlies most cardiovascular disease; its diagnosis and control should be of concern to all health care providers.

Q: Where do I find out if our patient is under group #12026, group #1055, or #11386?

A: The DDCO fax back on benefits will show the group number directly below the disclaimer. You can also find what group number a patient belongs to by looking up the patient on the secure provider portal at **deltadentalco.com**. Finally, you can also call our customer service department at 303-741-9300.