



ANZAP Member Newsletter - Periodontal Item Numbers - Update

I am writing to keep you up to date with the proposed new periodontal item numbers, following recent discussions with the ADA.

A meeting was held with ADA senior executives and Private Healthcare Australia (PHA) on 13th July 2016. The PHA group has indicated that the health funds involved in this group i.e. the 'major' funds, would not be able to implement the new and amended item numbers until 1st April 2017. They have advised that this has always been their policy and that the ADA has been aware of this. PHA offered to reinstate 281 and 282 as an interim measure, until 1st April 2017, when the new item numbers could come into effect. The ADA Federal Executive declined the offer of temporarily re-instating item numbers 281 and 282, stating that this would be a 'retrograde move'.

The ADA have advised that they will be approaching PHA member funds and other health funds to see if the new and amended item numbers can become operational as from 1st October 2016. The ADA Federal Executive feels that the time given should be adequate for the health funds to implement the changes. They propose to continue lobbying the health funds for early change.

This is a very frustrating time. We are caught in the middle of the ADA / Health Fund negotiations. It is disappointing that the ADA would not consider reinstating 281 and 282 as an interim measure, to allow the Health Funds time to implement the new item numbers. On the other hand, could the health funds expedite the process to allow the new numbers to be implemented by 1st October 2016? Is this unreasonable?

I am fully aware of the impact this is having on your practices and your patients. We will endeavour to keep you up to date with any progress.

Kind regards,

Rachel Garraway
ANZAP President 2016-2018