

Subject:	Dental care for medically compromised patients
Summary:	<p>Both adults and juvenile insured patients have a right to dental care if the results of a medical treatment without that dental care would be demonstrably insufficient and the patient would be unable to retain or obtain sufficient dental function without this medical care. In individual cases, determining the extent of this insured provision is not always a simple matter.</p> <p>CVZ carried out research into current established medical science and medical practice regarding the relationship between, on the one hand dental disorders and their treatments, and on the other hand dental disorders. The aim of the research was to obtain information that would make this relationship transparent for everyone concerned. This will provide greater transparency about where rights to dental care exist within this framework.</p> <p>Research shows that dental health and general health affect one another. Poor dental health can therefore be an indication of a person's general state of health. However, there is a dearth of clarity regarding the specific relationships between these two, and about the influencing mechanisms.</p> <p>Within the framework of a medical treatment, dental care generally involves ensuring that the mouth is free of infection by means of periodontal treatment, extractions or the administration of antibiotics; sometimes also by treating apical infections. The extent of the right of such patients to dental care is limited by the demands of article 2.7, para. 1, opening lines and under c of the Health Insurance Decision. This is about the question of who actually relies on these forms of dental care.</p> <p>Based on established medical science and medical practice, it might involve patients with the following disorders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ heart disorders ➤ diabetes mellitus ➤ lichen planus ➤ multiple sclerosis ➤ pneumonia, <p>and people who are being treated with the following therapies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ radiotherapy in the neck-head region ➤ chemotherapy ➤ intravenous bisphosphonates ➤ calcium antagonists ➤ diphantoin-like preparations. <p>Furthermore, ensuring that a mouth is free of inflammation is indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For oncology patients whose general resistance is at risk. ➤ In cases of periodontitis as a complication of an immunological, haematological or metabolic disease. ➤ Within the framework of preventing systematic complications in cases of endocarditis, heart valve disorders, stem cell transplants, renal insufficiency and organ transplants.

	In view of the nature of the evidence found, this list should not be regarded as exhausting for this insured provision, but rather as indicative.
Type of ruling:	SpZ = Outcome of Assessment Zvw
Date:	23 March 2010
Issued to:	Health insurer Care-provider
Care form:	Dental care