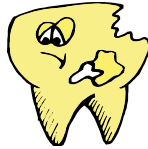


PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES

Emergency Dental Procedure



The CHS program will assist with emergency dental care **ONLY WHEN THE CLIENT CAN NOT IMMEDIATELY** receive services at an IHS facility.

Emergency Care

Emergency care is intended to relieve pain caused by an acute condition until your primary dentist can see you. Your emergency care benefit does not include procedures that may be required but are not necessary for the relief of pain. For example, root canals and crowns may be necessary treatments but are not covered under emergency care benefits. If you have an emergency that involves extensive accidental or traumatic injury to your teeth or mouth, or that affects your ability to breathe or swallow, you should contact your medical physician.

Emergency Dental Service

Emergency dental services are limited to procedures done in a dentist's office, dental clinic, or other comparable facility, to evaluate and stabilize dental conditions of a recent onset and severity accompanied by excessive bleeding, severe pain, or acute infection that would lead a layperson with average knowledge of dentistry to believe that immediate care is needed. A specific example would be a toothache that caused you severe pain.

Emergency dental services are those services necessary for the relief of acute conditions. Services include all necessary laboratory & preoperative work including examination, radiographs and appropriate anesthesia (local, general, sedative) for optimal management of the emergency.

Emergency Dental Procedure:

1. Client must first attempt to be seen at an IHS facility.
2. If unable to be seen at an IHS facility, client must contact the CHS department for authorization if during business hours, if after hours, you are required to call within 72 hours.
3. Client must have a serious dental problem. Emergency dental services shall include but not limited to the following:
 - Procedures necessary to control bleeding, relieve pain, and eliminate acute infection
 - Operative procedures that are required to prevent imminent loss of teeth

- Treatment of injuries to the teeth or supporting structures (please note that severe trauma to teeth and gums should be evaluated by an emergency physician)
4. The emergency dental appointment should only be utilized to alleviate the serious dental condition requiring such service. Once emergent care is received and the condition is stabilized, follow-up care will require services to be performed at the IHS dental facility or at your primary dental office (non-payable by CHS).
 5. If the patient is seen at an emergency dental facility, and it is determined that the visit does not meet our emergency criteria, the patient will be liable for all charges incurred.
 6. If the client has repeatedly missed dental appointments at the IHS facility, and has come to the point of an emergency, the patient will be responsible for all charges incurred.