

## Introduction

Approximately one in 1000 infants born in the province of British Columbia is born with a cleft of the lip and/or palate.

A cleft or craniofacial condition is a lifelong circumstance. A family centered inter-disciplinary team is best able to work with the family and child in order to secure optimal outcomes.

Orthodontic treatment for infants and adolescents with cleft lip and/or palate or a syndromic craniofacial anomaly can be more complex and requires an inter-disciplinary coordinated treatment plan. The orthodontist works in close concert with other team members to promote the best possible outcome for each child.

## Is there help?

To assist families with the financial burden of orthodontic care for children born with a cleft lip and/ or palate or a syndromic craniofacial anomaly, the British Columbia Government covers treatment costs through the Medical Services Plan. Items covered include:

- Newborn pre-surgical orthopedics
- Orthodontic treatment throughout childhood and adolescents
- Speech bulb appliances
- Palatal obturators

Dental treatment costs for dental services other than orthodontics, such as fillings, routine dental radiographs or cleaning and fluoride application, are **NOT** covered.

## Who is eligible to receive funding assistance?

- Any child who has a **confirmed** medical diagnosis of:
  - Cleft lip and/or palate
  - Syndromic craniofacial anomaly\*

\* the corrective treatment plan for the syndromic craniofacial anomaly is complex, and will involve both orthodontic treatment and surgery of the facial skeletal structure.

The child must:

- be a Canadian citizen, or a permanent landed immigrant and a resident of British Columbia, **and**
- hold a valid BC Medical Services Plan Health card, **and**
- not be older than 19 years of age at start of dental consultation/ treatment, **and**
- maintain good oral hygiene throughout the treatment period.

## How does the program work?

- The treating certified orthodontist can obtain the funding application form and submit treatment plans to:

Medical Services Plan (MSP)  
Orthodontic Program  
Health Insurance BC  
PO Box 9641 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9P1

Phone: 250- 405- 3742  
Fax: 250- 405- 3588

- The funding request should include:
  - the MSP Orthodontic Program form, indicating the treatment plan and estimated cost, **and**
  - a consultation letter verifying the medical diagnosis, **and**
  - clinical photographs

\* radiographs must be available on request of MSP

- Treatment providers must be certified orthodontists registered with the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia



4480 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6H 3V4

Developed by the health care professionals of the Cleft Palate/Craniofacial Program with assistance from the Department of Pediatric Dentistry

© C&W May 2007, PE



Orthodontic Program  
for Children  
with  
Cleft Lip and Palate  
&  
Syndromic  
Craniofacial  
Anomalies



An agency of the Provincial  
Health Services Authority