

Rural Area Flexibility Analysis (RAFA)

1. Types and estimated numbers of rural areas:

The proposal updates the dental fee schedule which has not been updated since it was first adopted in 2009. The dental fee schedule must be used for all dental treatment provided to workers' compensation claimants across New York State, including rural areas.

2. Reporting, recordkeeping and other compliance requirements; and professional services

The same compliance and recordkeeping requirements apply to rural areas as metropolitan ones. This updates the existing dental fee schedule and no special professional services should be required by rural or any other areas.

3. Costs

There are no additional costs expected as a result of this proposal – this is updating the existing dental fee schedule. The updating of fees may increase costs paid by insurers for certain codes, but should be balanced by deleted codes and an updated fee schedule overall.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that by making the fee schedule more comprehensive and updating it for the first time in over 15 years, that frictional costs associated to fees for dental treatment and unpaid bills will be greatly reduced, if not eliminated.

4. Minimizing Adverse Impact

The proposed regulations were written after a thorough analysis of the current dental fee schedule and the updated Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes, etc. over the last 15 years since it was last updated. The Board proposed these changes to implement a fairer, updated dental fee schedule to also help ensure availability of dental treatment for injured workers when it is needed.

5. Rural area participation

The Board does not have a rural area database, but has sent an electronic communication describing the proposal to approximately 10,300 subscribers for Board updates (health care providers and employers).

The Board will duly consider all public comments received from rural areas during the public comment period.