



Royal College  
of Surgeons  
ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE

# Activity Coding in Orthodontics

## Information for Secondary Care Trusts.

### **PROC codes for out-patient procedures in Orthodontic departments**

The tables below relate to the OPCS-4 classification of coding where procedural activity has been undertaken. In particular they reference activity likely to be undertaken by orthodontic departments. **All of the codes below should be available for linking to clinical activity.**

For the most part, orthodontic clinicians will identify what activity has been undertaken on their patients after each appointment. To aid this the COG, alongside GIRFT and RCS have produced a guidance document.

We welcome feedback on the process of implementing the guidance.

OPCS code (PROC)	OPCS code Definition	Inclusions	Exclusions
F14.1	Insertion of fixed orthodontic appliance	<b>Start of active treatment with fixed appliance</b> - bond up of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sectional,</li> <li>• single or</li> <li>• double arch</li> </ul> including molar tubes or bands.	<b>Excluding mid treatment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bracket additions – use F15.6</li> <li>• replacements - use F15.2</li> <li>• fixed retainer placement at end of active treatment – use F14.3</li> </ul>
F14.2	Insertion of movable orthodontic appliance	<b>Insertion of any removable appliance</b> , - including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• URA, removable habit breaker, removable space maintainer</li> <li>• functional appliance,</li> <li>• removable sleep apnoea appliance</li> <li>• retainers</li> </ul> Also including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• re fit of a repair of removable appliance</li> </ul>	
F14.3	Insertion of orthodontic appliance NEC	Fit of any additional <b>fixed</b> appliance element in addition to main bond up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPA/Nance Arch/Quad Helix/RME</li> <li>• fixed class II device/ fixed habit breaker/fixed space maintainer</li> <li>• fixed retainer</li> </ul>	
F14.4	Removal of orthodontic appliance NEC	<b>Debond</b> - complete removal of orthodontic appliance at the <b>completion of active treatment</b> . - removal of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sectional</li> <li>• single arch</li> <li>• double arch</li> <li>• interceptive fixed</li> <li>• removal of molar bands or tubes</li> </ul>	<b>Excluding removal of partial fixed device</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPA/ Quad/ RME/ fixed class II device etc - use F15.7</li> </ul>
F14.5	Surgical exposure of tooth	Open exposure of impacted tooth or closed exposure with gold chain placement on impacted tooth	
F14.6	Insertion of orthodontic anchorage	Fit TAD fixed orthodontic anchorage Any number	
F14.7	Removal of orthodontic anchorage	Remove TAD fixed orthodontic anchorage Any number	

OPCS code (PROC)	OPCS code Definition	Inclusions	Exclusions
F14.8	Other specified orthodontic operations	PLEASE DO NOT USE Only for use if the intervention is not covered elsewhere in the table	
F14.9	Unspecified orthodontic operations	PLEASE DO NOT USE Only for use if the intervention is not covered elsewhere in the table	
F15.1	Creation of orthodontic impression	Impression or digital scan of the mouth	
F15.2	Fitting of orthodontic bracket	<b>Additional</b> fitting/replacement of bracket or bands <b>within treatment</b> (single or multiple) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fitting second molars bands or tubes,</li> <li>bracket or band repairs</li> <li>bracket or band repositioning</li> </ul>	Excluding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bond up - use F14.1</li> </ul>
F15.3	Fitting of orthodontic headgear	Initial fit of headgear	
F15.4	Fitting of orthodontic separators	Placement of separators (any number, at any time)	
F15.5	Adjustment of orthodontic device	Adjustment and/or review of orthodontic appliance including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fixed</b> appliance adjustment also including Quad/RME etc</li> <li><b>removable</b> including URA, functionals, retainers, etc</li> <li>headgear adjust</li> </ul> <b>within an active treatment phase</b>	
F15.6	Repair of orthodontic appliance	Any repair of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fixed or</li> <li>removable appliance</li> </ul>	
F15.7	Debonding of orthodontic bracket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of any individual orthodontic bracket or band for repositioning</li> <li>removal of fixed device eg RME /quad/TPA/nance/fixed cl II device/lingual arch</li> </ul>	Excluding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>end of treatment debond - use F14.4</li> <li>repair of patient debonded bracket mid treatment – use F15.6</li> </ul>
F15.8	Other specified other orthodontic operations	DO NOT USE	
F15.9	Unspecified other orthodontic operations	DO NOT USE	

Codes F14.8 and F14.9 are legitimate codes in the OPCS classification. Our recommendation is that they are not used if the intervention is covered elsewhere in the table.

Other dental codes commonly used in Orthodontics			
OPCS code (PROC)	OPCS code Definition	Inclusions	Exclusions
F16.7	Polishing of teeth	Use of a <b>handpiece</b> to polish, clean or prepare tooth surfaces (including slow and fast handpieces)	
F16.4	Scaling of Teeth	Use of hand held or ultrasonic scalers	
F16.6	Application of topical fluoride	Hygienist/therapist or Orthodontist applying topical fluoride to teeth	
F40.5	Removal of sutures from mouth NEC	Removal of sutures (any number)	
F42.4	Photography of mouth	Photographic record of patient care taken by the clinician as part of the appointment	Excluding photographs taken by a medical photography department (unless not independently claimed)
F42.5	Recording of jaw relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recording of jaw relationship as part of face bow record.</li> <li>wafer try in as part of orthognathic care</li> </ul>	Excluding wax bite with impressions for study models as part of routine records
U04.1	Bitewing radiology	Bitewing Radiograph taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.2	Periapical radiology	Periapical radiograph (LCPA) taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.3	Occlusal radiology	Upper standard, oblique or lower occlusal radiograph taken in the department (USO/LSO)	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.4	Lateral oblique jaw radiology	Lateral Cephalogram Radiograph taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.8	Other specified diagnostic imaging of mouth	OPG radiograph taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology
U04.9	Unspecified diagnostic imaging of mouth	CBCT or other 3D scan imaging of teeth taken in the department	Excludes Xrays taken in Radiology