



7 Reasons Insurance Claims Get Denied

...and how to prevent them. A one-page checklist for dental and medical practices.

Every denied claim is money your practice already earned but hasn't collected. Most denials come from a few repeat causes, and most can be prevented at the front desk.

1 Coverage not verified.

The patient's plan changed, ended or doesn't cover the service.

☐ Verify eligibility and benefits before every visit, not just the first one.

2 Missing prior authorization.

The procedure needed the insurer's approval first.

☐ Keep a list of procedures that need approval for your main insurers.

3 Coding errors.

A wrong or outdated code, or a code that doesn't match the diagnosis.

☐ Review codes before submitting, and keep coding references current each year.

4 Missing attachments.

X-rays, perio charts, clinical notes or a narrative weren't included. This is especially common in dental.

☐ Use an attachment checklist for procedures that usually need one.

5 Frequency limits.

A cleaning, X-ray or exam was done too soon after the last one.

☐ Check the patient's benefit history before scheduling.

6 Late filing.

The claim was sent after the insurer's deadline.

☐ Know each insurer's filing deadline and submit claims within a few days of the visit.

7 Wrong insurer billed first.

A patient with two plans had the secondary billed as primary.

☐ Confirm primary and secondary coverage at every intake.

The step most practices skip: track the pattern

Rebiling one claim at a time fixes the claim but not the cause. A simple monthly log of denials, by reason and by insurer, shows where your practice loses the most money and what to fix first.

Want to know what denials are costing your practice?

We help dental and medical practices find the pattern and fix it, in English or Spanish.

Book a free 15-minute consultation: [avitaxes.com](https://www.avitaxes.com) · avitaxes@gmail.com · (206) 609-0816

Also free from AviTaxES: our *Financial & Tax Guides for Dental Practices and Medical Clinics*, and the *2027 Tax Calendar for Dental & Medical Practices*, at [avitaxes.com](https://www.avitaxes.com).

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