

CHAPTER 7
SECTION 26.1

ADJUNCTIVE DENTAL CARE

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I. DESCRIPTION

Adjunctive dental care is that dental care which is medically necessary in the treatment of an otherwise covered medical (not dental) condition, is an integral part of the treatment of such medical condition; or is required in preparation for, or as the result of, dental trauma which may be or is caused by medically necessary treatment of an injury or disease.

II. POLICY

A. Adjunctive dental care requires preauthorization. When adjunctive dental care involves a medical (not dental) emergency (such as facial injuries resulting from an accident), the requirement for preauthorization is waived. Such waiver, is limited to the essential adjunctive dental care related to the medical condition requiring the immediate emergency treatment.

B. Hospital services and supplies will be covered for a patient who requires a hospital setting for noncovered, noadjunctive dental care when medically necessary to safeguard the life of the patient from the effects of dentistry on an underlying nondental organic condition.

C. Benefits may be cost-shared for the treatment of the following conditions:

1. Intraoral abscesses which extend beyond the dental alveolus. These abscesses may require immediate attention in an acute phase which would preclude preauthorization.

2. Extraoral abscesses.

3. Cellulitis and osteitis which is clearly exacerbating and directly affecting a medical condition currently under treatment.

4. Removal of teeth and tooth fragments in order to treat and repair facial trauma resulting from an accidental injury.

5. Myofacial Pain Dysfunction Syndrome.

6. Total or complete ankyloglossia.

7. Adjunctive dental and orthodontic support for cleft palate.

8. The prosthetic replacement of either the maxilla or the mandible due to the reduction of body tissue associated with traumatic injury (e.g., impact, gun shot wound), in addition to services related to treating neoplasms or iatrogenic dental trauma.

NOTE: The test of whether dental trauma is covered is whether the trauma is solely dental trauma. Dental trauma, in order to be covered, must be related to, and an integral part of medical trauma; or result of medically necessary treatment of an injury or disease.

D. Dental care required in preparation for medical treatment of a disease or disorder or required as a result of dental trauma caused by the medically necessary treatment of an injury or disease is a covered benefit.

1. Necessary dental care including prophylaxis and extractions when performed in preparation for or as a result of in-line radiation therapy for oral or facial cancer.

2. Treatment of gingival hyperplasia, with or without periodontal disease, as a direct result of prolonged therapy with Dilantin (diphenylhydantoin) or related compounds.

E. Benefits may be cost-shared for the following covered oral surgery when performed by either a dentist or physician:

1. Excision of tumors and cysts of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, and roof and floor of the mouth, when such conditions require a pathological (histological) examination.

2. Surgical procedures required to correct accidental injuries of the jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, and roof and floor of the mouth.

3. Treatment of oral or facial cancer.

4. Treatment of fractures of facial bones.

5. External (extra-oral) incision and drainage of cellulitis.

6. Surgery of accessory sinuses, salivary glands, or ducts.

7. Reduction of dislocations and the excision of the temporomandibular joints, when surgery is a necessary part of the reduction.

8. Mandibular bone grafts performed for other than orthodontia or dental support.

9. Removal of a foreign body which is hazardous to the patient's health, which is reaction-producing or complicates a primary medical condition.

10. Intrinsic and traumatic diseases of the temporomandibular joint which require surgery such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

11. Surgical treatment of the temporomandibular joint.

12. The Therabite Jaw Motion System may be considered for cost-sharing as durable medical equipment (DME)

III. EXCLUSIONS

A. Dental care which is routine, preventive, restorative, prosthodontic, periodontic or emergency does not qualify as adjunctive dental care which is performed in preparation for or as a result of dental trauma caused by medically necessary treatment of an injury or disease.

B. The adding or modifying of bridge work and dentures.

C. Orthodontia, except when directly related to and an integral part of the medical or surgical correction of a cleft palate or when required in preparation for, or as a result of, trauma to the teeth and supporting structures caused by medically necessary treatment of an injury or disease.

D. The treatment of generally poor dental health (dental caries) due to certain systemic causes (e.g., congenital syphilis, malabsorption syndromes, rickets, etc.) is excluded from coverage.

E. Treatment of Temporomandibular Joint Syndrome, occlusal equilibration and restorative occlusal rehabilitation are excluded from this category.

F. Extraction of unerupted or partially erupted, malposed or impacted teeth, with or without the attached follicular or development tissues, are not covered oral surgery procedures except when the care is indicated in preparation for, or as a result of, dental trauma caused by the medically necessary treatment of an injury or illness.

G. Mandibular staple implants are not covered because their primary purpose is to prepare the mouth for dentures.

H. Any oral surgical procedure that falls within the cosmetic, reconstructive, or plastic surgery definition.

I. Surgical preparation of the mouth for dentures is not a benefit except when performed as an integral part of the treatment of dental trauma caused by medically necessary treatment of a medical condition (iatrogenic).

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