

SACRAMENTO DISTRICT DENTAL MID-WINTER CONVENTION – MARCH 26, 2026
PRESENTATIONS: COMMON REASONS CLAIMS ARE DENIED & DENTAL CODING
PRESENTER: Gary L. Dougan, DDS, MPH, FACD, FICD, FPFA

60 for Code Changes for 2026 Since CDT 2025
31 Additions; 14 Revisions, 6 Deletions & 9 Editorial Change

I. Diagnostic

- a. NEW D0426 collection, preparation and analysis of saliva sample – point-of-care**
- b. NEW D0461 testing for cracked tooth**
 - i. Includes multiple teeth; contra-lateral comparisons; diagnostic aids such as pressure, transillumination, staining, etc.
- c. REVISED D0180 comprehensive periodontal evaluation – new or established patient**
 - i. Includes full mouth probing and perio charting; takes into account social risk factors; includes oral cancer evaluation, wellness assessment and eval of current dental conditions
 - ii. Cleans up language and makes more clear what is to be included and performed
- d. REVISED D0417 collection and preparation of saliva sample for laboratory analysis**
- e. REVISED D0418 analysis of saliva sample – laboratory**
 - i. Makes more clear the collection of the sample vs. the analysis of the sample

II. Preventive

- a. NEW D1720 influenza vaccine administration**
- b. DELETED D1352 – preventive resin restoration in a moderate to high caries risk patient – permanent tooth**
- c. DELETED D1705, D1706 AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine administration – first dose and second dose**
- d. DELETED D1707, D1712 Janssen Covid-19 vaccine administration & booster dose**

III. Restorative

- a. REVISED D2391 resin-based composite – one surface, posterior**
 - i. Removed requirement that composite was a carious lesion into the dentin or a deeply eroded area into the dentin. Removed the statement that this is “not a preventive procedure”
 - ii. Can now be used for a preventive resin restoration since D1352 was deleted (see above)

V. Periodontics / section describing Surgical Services (including Usual Postoperative Care)

- a. EDITORIAL D4263 bone replacement graft – retained natural tooth – first site in quadrant**
- b. EDITORIAL D4264 bone replacement graft – retained natural tooth – each additional site in quadrant**
 - i. Clears up that barrier membrane placement is not included

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- VI. Prosthodontics, removable / section describing Other Removable Prosthetic Services**
- a. **NEW D5877 duplication of complete denture – maxillary**
 - b. **NEW D5878 duplication of complete denture – mandibular**
 - i. States clearly that this does NOT include all the steps used in initial fabrication
 - c. **EDITORIAL D5863 / D5864 overdenture – complete maxillary / partial maxillary – natural tooth borne**
 - d. **EDITORIAL D5865 / D5866 overdenture – complete mandibular / partial mandibular – natural tooth borne**
 - i. The above 4 codes have been revised to indicate that these appliances are natural tooth borne – clearly separating them from implant borne or implant retained.
 - e. **EDITORIAL D5867 replacement of replaceable part of semi-precision or precision attachment of natural tooth borne prosthesis, per attachment**
 - i. Underline inserted above to identify the new words added to the descriptor
- VII. Maxillofacial Prosthetics**
- a. **NEW D5909 maxillary guidance prosthesis with guide flange**
 - i. See D5934 for the mandibular version of this appliance
 - ii. This code had previously existed for the mandibular arch
 - b. **NEW D5930 maxillary guidance prosthesis without guide flange**
 - i. See D5935 for the mandibular version of this appliance
 - ii. This code had previously existed for the mandibular arch
 - c. **NEW D5938 resection prosthesis, maxillary complete removable**
 - d. **NEW D5939 resection prosthesis, mandibular complete removable**
 - e. **NEW D5940 resection prosthesis, maxillary partial removable**
 - f. **NEW D5941 resection prosthesis, mandibular partial removable**
 - g. **NEW D5942 resection prosthesis, maxillary implant / abutment supported removable prosthesis for edentulous arch**
 - h. **NEW D5943 resection prosthesis, mandibular implant/abutment supported removable prosthesis for edentulous arch**
 - i. **NEW D5944 resection prosthesis, maxillary implant/abutment supported removable prosthesis for the partial edentulous arch**
 - j. **NEW D5945 resection prosthesis, mandibular implant/abutment supported removable prosthesis for the partial edentulous arch**
 - k. **NEW D5946 resection prosthesis, maxillary implant/abutment supported fixed prosthesis for edentulous arch**
 - l. **NEW D5947 resection prosthesis, mandibular implant/abutment supported fixed prosthesis for edentulous arch**
 - m. **NEW D5948 resection prosthesis, maxillary implant/abutment supported fixed prosthesis for the partial edentulous arch**

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- n. **NEW D5949 resection prosthesis, mandibular implant/abutment supported fixed prosthesis for the partial edentulous arch**
- o. **REVISED D5934 mandibular guidance prosthesis with guide flange**
 - i. See D5905 for the maxillary version of this appliance
 - ii. This code had previously existed for the mandibular arch
- p. **REVISED D5935 mandibular guidance prosthesis without guide flange**
 - i. See D5930 for the maxillary version of this appliance
 - ii. This code had previously existed for the mandibular arch
- q. **EDITORIAL D5982 surgical stent for soft tissue healing**
 - i. Underline added above to show the new words added to the descriptor

VIII. Implant / section describing Other Implant Services

- a. **NEW D6280 implant maintenance procedures when a full arch removable implant/abutment supported denture is removed and reinserted, including cleansing of prosthesis and abutments – per arch**
 - i. Includes active debriding, examination of all aspects of the implant system, including the occlusion and stability of the prosthesis; includes patient instruction in thorough daily cleansing of the implant
- b. **NEW D6049 scaling and debridement of a single implant in the presence of peri-implantitis inflammation, bleeding upon probing and increased pocket depths, including cleaning of the implant surfaces, without flap entry and closure**
 - i. Cannot be performed with D1110, D4910 or D4346
- c. **NEW D6196 removal of an indirect restoration on an implant retained abutment**
 - i. Not to be used for a temporary, provisional or screw retained restoration
- d. **EDITORIAL D6080 implant maintenance procedures when a full arch fixed hybrid prosthesis is removed and reinserted, including cleansing of prosthesis and abutments**
 - i. Replaces the word “superstructure” with “prosthesis”

X. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery / section describing Other Surgical Procedures

- a. **REVISED D7285 incisional biopsy of oral tissue – hard (bone, tooth)**
 - i. Clarifies that this is not used for apicoectomy or radicular surgery and does not entail an excision.
 - ii. It is designed for removal of a lesion like a cyst or tumor
- b. **REVISED D7286 incisional biopsy of oral tissue – soft**
 - i. For partial removal of a lesion Clarifies that this is not used for apicoectomy or radicular surgery and does not entail an excision.
 - ii. Clarifies that this is not used for apicoectomy or radicular surgery and does not entail an excision.

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XII. Adjunctive General Services / section describing Unclassified Treatment

- a. NEW D9128 photobiomodulation therapy – first 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
- b. NEW D9129 photobiomodulation therapy – each subsequent 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
 - i. For both D9128 and D9129: The use of low-level laser therapy to alleviate pain or inflammation, modulate the immune response and promote tissue healing or regeneration

Under the Section describing Anesthesia

- c. NEW D9244 in-office administration of minimal sedation – single drug – enteral**
 - i. With or without nitrous oxide
- d. NEW D9245 administration of moderate sedation – enteral**
 - i. With or without nitrous oxide
- e. NEW D9246 administration of moderate sedation – non-intravenous parenteral – first 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
 - i. With or without nitrous oxide
 - ii. Includes non-invasive monitoring protocol
 - iii. Doctor remains in continuous attendance of the patient until doctor determines it is safe to leave the room
- f. NEW D9247 administration of moderate sedation – non-intravenous parenteral – each subsequent 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
 - i. Same notes as D9246 above
- g. NEW D9224 administration of general anesthesia with advanced airway first 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
 - i. Same notes as D9246 above
- h. NEW D9225 administration of general anesthesia with advanced airway – each subsequent 15 minute increment, or an portion thereof**
 - i. Same notes as D9246 above
- i. REVISED D9222 administration of deep sedation/general anesthesia – first 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
 - i. Underline added to show the new words added to the descriptor
 - ii. With or without nitrous oxide
 - iii. Notes are similar to D9246 above
- j. REVISED D9223 administration of deep sedation/general anesthesia – each subsequent 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
 - i. Underline added to show the new words added to the descriptor
 - ii. With or without nitrous oxide
 - iii. Notes are similar to D9246 above

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- k. REVISED D9239 administration of moderate sedation – intravenous – first 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
 - i. Underline added to show the new words added to the descriptor
 - ii. With or without nitrous oxide
 - iii. Notes are similar to D9246 above
- l. REVISED D9243 administration of moderate sedation – intravenous – each subsequent 15 minute increment, or any portion thereof**
 - i. Underline added to show the new words added to the descriptor
 - ii. With or without nitrous oxide
 - iii. Notes are similar to D9246 above
- m. REVISED D9230 administration of nitrous oxide**
 - i. When nitrous oxide is administered as a single agent
 - ii. Underline added to show the new words added to the descriptor
- n. ~~DELETION D9248 – non-intravenous conscious sedation~~**
 - i. Deletion of this code is replaced by the new codes above to better describe what was previously called “conscious sedation”

Under the Section described as Miscellaneous Services

- o. NEW D9936 cleaning and inspection of occlusal guard – per appliance**
 - i. Does not include any adjustments to the appliance

XIII. This Category of Service has changed from Sleep Apnea Services to Sleep Related Breathing Disorders and Airway Management Services

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SECRETS OF SMOOTHER CLAIMS PROCESSING - COMMON CLAIMS DENIAL REASONS

1. Use Proper FORM and fill it out completely and accurately
 - a. Name match ID card or eligibility list
 - b. Prior placement / reason for replacement
 - c. Coordination of Benefits
 - d. Usual Fee – Are you in network?
 - e. Proper submission to electronic clearinghouses with all attachments
 - f. Get Processing Guidelines or Provider Manual; decide on pre-determination
2. Radiographs & Photos
 - a. Oriented, labeled & mounted
 - b. Diagnostic (no bad processing, cone cuts, missing apices)
 - c. Write on them / label / date / tooth # / arrows
 - d. Proper orientation / Quality of Image & Paper
3. Periodontal Charts and Other Attachments
 - a. Dated, labeled perio chart with clear indication of pockets
 - b. Capture mobility, furcations, amount of recession y attached gingiva (for graft cases)
 - c. Other attachments needed vary by carrier
4. Narratives and Clinic notes
 - a. Meaningful, accurate, in sync with images; custom-not cookie-cutter
 - b. checklists
5. Restorative Replacements
 - a. Date of prior placement / Reason for replacement
 - b. Accurate Dating or approximation based on patient's recollection
6. Crowns and Core Build-ups
 - a. Build-ups only if crown would fall off without it; needed for retention of crown
 - b. not just basing undercuts; D2949 vs D2950 vs. D2952 or D2954
 - c. Post and Core includes core build-up (can't bill for both on an endo tooth)
7. Fractures and Cracks
 - a. Craze line? Surface crack? Cracked previous restoration?
 - b. Missing Cusp? Cusp broken off? Current problem or potential future problem?
 - c. Cracked Tooth Syndrome – needs tests, report narrative
8. Resubmissions
 - a. Provide new info NOT already presented; send complete submission clearly demonstrating need
9. Implants
 - a. Proper coding for implant-supported or abutment-supported implant system; fixed or removable
10. Proper and Current CDT Codes – don't game the system
 - a. Watch for "by report" codes and be prepared to submit the "report"
 - b. Watch for upcoding extractions, filling surfaces, full or partial quadrants
 - c. Implant and Bone Graft codes are especially prone to errors