

Medical Coverage Policy | Dental Services for Accidental Injury



EFFECTIVE DATE: 07|19|2007

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 05|20|2014

OVERVIEW

This policy addresses the initial dental care/services provided by dental providers specifically relating to injuries of sound natural teeth due to trauma or accident that are covered under the member's medical benefit.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is not required.

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare

Non-routine dental care required to treat illness or injury may be covered as inpatient or outpatient care. Covered services are limited to surgery of the jaw or related structures and setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones.

Medicare policy is developed separately from BCBSRI policy. Medicare policy incorporates consideration of governmental regulations from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), such as national coverage determinations or local coverage determinations. In addition to benefit differences, CMS may reach different conclusions regarding the scientific evidence than does BCBSRI. Medicare and BCBSRI policies may differ; however, BlueCHiP for Medicare members must be offered, at least, the same services as Medicare offers.

Commercial

Treatment of an **accidental injury** to sound natural teeth when received **within seventy-two (72) hours** of the onset of an **accidental injury** is considered medically necessary for the diagnosis codes listed below.

Treatments include the following:

- Extraction of teeth needed to avoid infection of teeth damaged in the injury;
- Suturing;
- Reimplanting and stabilization of dislodged teeth;
- Repositioning and stabilization of partly dislodged teeth;
- Dental x-rays.

Any dental services, other than those listed above, are considered a **contract exclusion**.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

Coverage under the medical benefit is typically provided when there is accidental injury to the sound natural teeth, caused by unexpected and unintentional means. It does not include injury sustained while biting or chewing. Sound natural teeth are defined as teeth that are free of active or chronic clinical decay, have at least 50% bone support and are functional in the arch.

Treatment for an **accidental injury** to sound natural teeth, and/or any facial fractures will be covered in the hospital or emergency room, along with the doctor's or dentist's services, when the accidental injury is the direct cause for the treatment, independent of other disease or bodily injury.

If dentally necessary services are received in a doctor's or dentist's office due to an accidental injury to sound natural teeth, the member is responsible for any applicable office visit copayment.

Because services for treatment of accidental injury to sound natural teeth are covered under the medical benefit, the provider should file the claim using the CMS 1500 form.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable Emergency Dental Condition, and Dental Services benefits/coverage.

CODING

Commercial

The following dental codes are **covered** for the treatments mentioned above.

X-Rays

D0210, D0220, D0230, D0240, D0250, D0260, D0270, D0272, D0273, D0274, D0277

The following is a list of procedure codes typically used by dentists for accidental injury to sound teeth:

D7210, D7270, D7272, D7530, D7540, D7910, D7911, D7912

The following is a list of ICD-9-CM diagnoses codes typically used by dentists for accidental injury to sound teeth:

873.62

873.63

873.72

873.73

The following is a list of ICD-10-CM diagnoses codes typically used by dentists for accidental injury to sound teeth:

S01.532A

S01.542A

S01.552A

S02.5xxA

S02.5xxB

S03.2xxA

RELATED POLICIES

Oral Surgeons Filing Anesthesia Services

Dental Providers Filing Evaluation and Management Services for Medical Reasons

Dental Services Rendered in the Outpatient Setting

PUBLISHED

Provider Update Aug 2014

Provider Update Dec 2012

Provider Update Mar 2012

Provider Update Mar 2009

Policy Update Dec 2007

Policy Update Oct 2007

REFERENCES

1. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island 2014 Subscriber Agreement.
2. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determination (NCD) for DENTAL Examination Prior to Kidney Transplantation (260.6)
3. Medicare Dental Coverage - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
<http://cms.hhs.gov/Medicare/Coverage/MedicareDentalCoverage/index.html>
4. Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 15 – Covered Medical and Other Health Services 150 - Dental Services

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