

Dental Radiographs

Adjudication Guideline

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1. Abstract

1.1 For Members

Dental X-rays (radiographs) are images of your teeth that your dentist uses to evaluate your oral health. These X-rays are used with low levels of radiation to capture images of the interior of your teeth and gums.

These X-rays can help your dentist to identify problems like cavities, tooth decay, and impacted teeth. Dental X-rays may seem complex, but they're actually very common tools that are just as important as your teeth cleanings.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

Dental radiology includes the periapical film to visualize periapical pathology, bitewing films to identify occlusal and inter-proximal dental caries, occlusal films most commonly to identify submandibular sialolithiasis, the panorex (panoramic radiograph or orthopantomogram) is a two-dimensional view of the bones and dentition of the upper and lower dental arches. Cone-beam computed tomography is a recent addition to the dental practice, a helical three-dimensional CT scan for hard tissue imaging with high diagnostic quality and lower radiation doses than conventional CT scans.

2. Scope

This adjudication rule addresses the coverage of Dental Radiographs by Daman for all plans with the optional benefit of dental and administered by Daman.

3. Adjudication Policy

- Routine dental X-rays are no longer be reimbursed separately; they will be considered an integral part of dental consultations, examinations, and procedures (UCSLS codes).
- Panoramic Radiographs (OPG) and Tomography scan (CBCT) are not bundled and will be payable separately based on medical necessity.
- Panoramic X-Ray is limited to once per year per provider group.

- CBCT is covered for pre-surgical planning of dental implants, cases of deep impaction that are close to vital structures, cysts, or tumours. Other diagnosis such as jaw asymmetry, and malocclusion codes that may require CBCT by Oral and maxillofacial surgeons for orthognathic surgeries.

Payment for this service requires medical justification and is subject to medical evaluation, as well as adherence to policy coverage terms and conditions.

- The reporting of the **tooth number** for implant and complicated impacted tooth procedures or wherever applicable is a mandatory billing requirement, at both authorization and claims level.
- Computed Tomography (CPT 70486) is not considered as routine dental diagnostic imaging and should not be billed by any dentists.
- Dentists must use USCLS/CDT codes as per territory when billing for dental radiographs that are linked to dental diagnoses. The billing of dental radiographs with corresponding CPT codes is not allowed.

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

All dental radiographs to be claimed using the correct USCLS/CDT codes with a justifying ICD-10-CM code for diagnosis, unless otherwise specified.

The plan wise coverage of dental radiographs is subject to availability of dental benefits and policy terms & conditions.

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

Daman covers Dental Radiographs as per the policy terms and conditions of each health insurance plan it administers.

3.3 Non-Coverage

Dental Radiographs are not covered for the Daman plans without the optional dental benefit in the SOBs.

3.4 Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply regulator payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CDT, USCLS etc. Kindly code the ICD-10 and the USCLS/CDT codes to the highest level of specificity.

4. Denial Codes

| Code | Code Description |
|----------|---|
| MNEC-003 | Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice |
| MNEC-004 | Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses/activities |
| MNEC-005 | Service/supply may be appropriate, but too frequent |
| PRCE-002 | Payment is included in the allowance for another service |
| NCOV-003 | Service(s) is (are) not covered |

5. Appendices

5.1 References

- https://www.moderndentistrymedia.com/aug_sep2018/hartshorne_part2_references.pdf
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/medicine-and-dentistry/dental-radiology>
- [https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177\(23\)00734-1/fulltext](https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(23)00734-1/fulltext)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dental_radiography

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| 01/11/2024 | V1.0 Content Update |
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