

Dental Palliative Service

Adjudication Guideline

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Dental

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1. Abstract

1.1 For Members

Palliative treatment is used to alleviate the symptoms of pain/discomfort for a patient without solving the underlying condition. Patient may need to return for subsequent definitive care with the same provider on another day or go to another Dental provider on the same or another day.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

Palliative (emergency) Treatment of Dental Pain refers to treatment that relieves pain but is not curative; services provided do not have distinct procedure codes.

2. Scope

The scope of the document is to highlight the coverage criteria of Dental Palliative service for health insurance plans administered by Daman.

3. Adjudication Policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

1. Palliative codes should not be used to bill for services which have specific USCLS/CDT codes such as Initial stages of RCT including but not limited to Open and drain, Opening through artificial crown, Pulpotomy, Pulpectomy etc.
2. Palliative codes can be billed in the following scenarios:
 - a. Immediate pain relief is provided, but no definitive or curative treatment is performed, and no other specific code applies.
 - b. Relief of pain from conditions such as soft tissue irritation or food impaction, where no distinct procedure code exists.
 - c. Applies to single or multiple sites needing palliative procedures for dental pain.
3. Palliative services are required to be hands-on and should not be coded in conjunction with final restorations being performed on the same tooth/area on the same day.

4. Since palliative service addresses an acute problem, it's not covered if any additional therapeutic or preventive procedures are performed on other teeth or sites during the same visit.
5. Palliative Treatment is not covered when billed with any other type of dental examinations except Emergency Examination (USCLS 01205), Limited Evaluation (CDTD0140) if required.
6. Palliative services are covered with diagnostic radiographs and Nitrous oxide inhalation sedation as per current policy.

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

The nature of emergency, the dental site and the specific treatment provided must be clearly documented in the Patients dental record.

3.3 Non-Coverage

Daman does not cover dental services for visitors and basic plans. For all other plans, refer to 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.

Codes corresponding to Palliative service are mentioned in table below:

Type	Code	Code Description
USCLS	91111	Palliative (emergency) Treatment of Dental Pain, Minor Procedure One unit of time
USCLS	91119	Palliative (emergency) Treatment of Dental Pain, Minor Procedure Each additional unit over three
CDT	D9110	Palliative (Emergency) Treatment of Dental Pain-Minor Procedures

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
NCOV-003	Service(s) is (are) not covered

5. Appendices

5.1 References

https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/publications/cdt/v1__d9110palliativetreatmentguide_2023jan.pdf?rev=d4644f957e3d48308855938848731b2f&hash=CC35594B3A03708716435213F601374E

https://www.emedny.org/providermanuals/dental/pdfs/dental_policy_and_procedure_manual.pdf

<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/DHS%20Legacy/palliative-treatment-dental-pain-coding-guideline.pdf>

Healthplex Reference Manual for Dental Services - Essential Plans

5.2 Revision History

Date	Change(s)
01.02.2026	Creation of Adjudication Guideline-External Instruction Template.

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