

Enrollee Newsletter

WINTER 2019



2020 CDT Code Updates

The American Dental Association (ADA) has released the 2020 version of the Current Dental Terminology (CDT) Procedure Codes. Below is the list of new CDT Procedure Codes that will be included as of January 1, 2020 as covered benefits for all Western Dental Plans. Please note that the ADA deleted and replaced certain codes and those replacement codes now become the current Western Dental benefits.

Status	Code	Description
New	D0419	Assessment of salivary flow by measurement
Deleted	D1550	Re-cement or re-bond space maintainer
Replacement	D1551	Re-cement or re-bond bilateral space maintainer
	D1552	Re-cement or re-bond unilateral space maintainer
	D1553	Re-cement or re-bond unilateral space maintainer - per quadrant
Deleted	D1555	Removal of fixed space maintainer
Replacement	D1556	Removal of fixed unilateral space maintainer - per quadrant
	D1557	Removal of fixed bilateral space maintainer maxillary
	D1558	Removal of fixed bilateral space maintainer mandibular
New	D2753	Crown- porcelain fused to titanium or titanium alloy
New	D5284	Removable unilateral partial denture - one piece flexible base (including clasps and teeth) - per quadrant
New	D5286	Removable unilateral partial denture - one piece resin (including clasps and teeth) per quadrant
New	D6195	Abutment supported retainer - porcelain fused to titanium or titanium alloy
New	D6243	Pontic - porcelain fused to titanium or titanium alloys
New	D6753	Retainer crown - porcelain fused to titanium or titanium alloys
New	D6784	Retainer crown 3/4 - titanium and titanium alloys
New	D7922	Placement of intra - socket biological dressing to aid in hemostasis or clot stabilization or clot stabilization, per site
New	D9997	Dental case management - patients with special health care needs

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Dental Care For Special Needs Members

Special needs members need regular dental care. A healthy mouth helps a person eat well, and avoid pain and tooth loss. Brushing and flossing every day and seeing the dentist regularly can make a big difference in the quality of life for a special needs member, and regular visits to the dentist are important. A 'get acquainted' visit with no treatment provided might help. The member can meet the dental office staff, sit in the dental chair if he or she wishes, and receive instructions on how to brush and floss. This type of visit can go a long way toward making future dental appointments go easier.

Parents and/or caretakers can also make dental appointments easier by being prepared. You may be asked to provide the special needs member's dental history and you should bring their complete medical history. This will assist the dentist in providing the best possible care in the safest environment.



Disclosure of Review Processes

Upon request, WDS' Member Service Department will send you a copy of the guidelines and criteria that are used to determine if a service is covered or not when a dentist or WDS provider sends requests to WDS for benefits and/or claims for payment to an enrollee, a dentist or a member of the general public. You may ask for this information by writing to Western Dental Services, Inc., P.O. Box 14227, Orange, CA 92863, or by calling WDS Member Services at 1-800-992-3366.

Public Policy

The Plan welcomes provider participation on its Public Policy Committee, which meets quarterly at the Plan's corporate office in Orange, California. In order to be considered for membership, please write or call the Plan's Provider Services department at 1-800-992-3366.

Our Member Services team is available to assist members Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm (PST). Below are our contact numbers for specific employer groups and our general lines.

General Member Services	(800)992-3366
State of California Employees	(866)859-7525
Los Angeles Unified School District	(866)901-4416
Brand New Day	(855)203-5900

The Dental Health Consequences of Vaping and Smoking

Nearly 40 million people in the U.S. smoke, and 4.7 million middle and high school students use a tobacco product including e-cigarettes, according to the Center for Disease Control. Many tobacco users have been persuaded that vaping is safer, but studies now show that vaping is just as addictive and deliver more toxic chemicals to the system than regular smoking. Recently, vaping has been linked to six fatalities and 450 illnesses nationwide.

No matter how you look at it – whether you smoke, chew tobacco, or vape e-cigarettes – the use of these products can cause serious health problems, including extreme damage to the health of your gums and teeth:

- **Cancer.** Tobacco use is linked to many types of cancers, including mouth, throat, esophagus, cheek, gum, lip and tongue cancer. Chemicals in e-cigarette vapors cause changes in the genetic make up of cells in the mouth, causing sustained inflammation and, long term, can trigger the development of cancer
- **Cavities.** Chewing tobacco is loaded with sugar, which can erode your tooth enamel, and vaping can cause excessive bacteria in the mouth, contributing to tooth decay
- **Gum disease.** Vaping can aggravate mild forms of gum disease, causing more serious damage. Tobacco's sugars and irritants can cause gum infections. Over time, gum disease can lead to tooth loss. Signs include red swollen gums, sensitive teeth, loose teeth, tooth loss
- **Precancerous mouth lesions.** Chewing tobacco can cause lesions where the chew is placed and can become cancerous
- **Longer healing time.** Smoking, vaping and chewing tobacco will hinder the healing process following oral surgery

Before you light up that cigarette, vape or chew tobacco, consider the damage it can have to your teeth and overall oral hygiene.

Better yet, don't start.