



Seal Out Dental Decay! Protect your Children Now!

Sealants are a coating that is painted on the biting surface of molar teeth that seals the pits and grooves and helps prevent dental cavities. Sealants are placed without numbing the teeth and usually without any tooth preparation (“drilling”).

The use of dental sealants was the theme of the October 2010 issue of the California Dental Association Journal. The following facts were noteworthy:

- 1) The most recent data shows that only 28% of California third-grade children have received a sealant.
- 2) Yet by the time California children were in kindergarten, 63% had a cavity, 28% had at least one untreated cavity, and 19% had rampant cavities.

Western Dental hopes to reverse this trend. But we need your help! Instead of waiting for your child to get cavities, you can take the following steps to prevent them:

- Establish a dental home for your child by age 1, and continue regular dental visits as recommended
- Assist your child with brushing and flossing every day until age 8
- Starting at age 4, use a fluoride toothpaste (use a non-fluoride toothpaste until age 4)
- Limit your child’s snacks and avoid sugary foods and drinks
- When your child is six years of age, ask your dentist about sealants for the newly-erupted adult molars (the “six-year molars”) – Ask about sealants again when your child is twelve years of age (for the “twelve-year molars”)

Join Western Dental in sealing out the cavities for your child. Make an appointment today!

New CDT 2018 Codes

CDT 2018 is the newest version of the American Dental Association’s code on dental procedures and nomenclature. Below is the list of new CDT 2018 codes that will be included as covered benefits for all Western Dental Plan’s. The below changes are effective January 1, 2018.

D5511 - Repair broken complete denture base, mandibular. When performed on the mandibular arch, this procedure replaces deleted code D5510 and is subject to the same policy and limitations.

D5512 – Repair broken complete denture base, maxillary. When performed on the maxillary arch, this procedure replaces deleted code D5510 and is subject to the same policy and limitations.

D5611 – Repair resin partial denture

base, mandibular. When performed on the mandibular arch, this procedure replaces deleted code D5610 and is subject to the same policy and limitations.

D5612 – Repair resin partial denture base, maxillary. When performed on the maxillary arch, this procedure replaces deleted code D5610 and is subject to the same policy and limitations.

D5621 – Repair cast partial framework, mandibular. When performed on the mandibular arch, this procedure replaces deleted code D5620 and is subject to the same policy and limitations.

D5622 – Repair cast partial framework, maxillary. When performed on the maxillary arch, this procedure replaces deleted code D5620 and is subject to the same policy and limitations.

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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.

Public Policy

The Plan welcomes Member 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 member service department at 1-800-992-3366.

