

MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS

Medical Policy Title	Dental Crowns and Veneers
Policy Number	13.01.02
Category	Contract Clarification
Original Effective Date	04/24/14
Committee Approval Date	04/23/15, 04/28/16, 06/22/17, 06/28/18, 06/27/19, 06/25/20, 06/24/21, 06/16/22, 06/22/23, 05/16/24
Current Effective Date	05/16/24
Archived Date	N/A
Archive Review Date	N/A
Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Services are contract dependent; if a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply.</i> • <i>If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan or Child Health Plus product), medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</i> • <i>If a Medicaid product covers a specific service, and there are no New York State Medicaid guidelines (eMedNY) criteria, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</i> • <i>If a Medicare product (including Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product) covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</i> • <i>If a Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product DOES NOT cover a specific service, please refer to the Medicaid Product coverage line.</i>

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, traditional or $\frac{3}{4}$ dental crowns are considered **medically appropriate** for **ANY** of the following:
 - A. To replace a large filling that encompasses at least half the width of a tooth;
 - B. Following a root canal, to prevent the tooth from fracturing;
 - C. Where fracture(s) inside the tooth cause pain upon chewing, for a patient with cracked tooth syndrome;
 - D. For a tooth missing either the facial/buccal or lingual/palatal walls (due to disease or not present upon eruption of the tooth);
 - E. For severe tooth decay in which most of the original tooth has been destroyed.
- II. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, traditional or $\frac{3}{4}$ dental crowns are considered **not medically necessary** when placed to cover a misshaped or severely discolored tooth.
- III. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, dental veneers placed on the frontal surface of anterior teeth (teeth 6-11 or 22-27) are considered **medically appropriate** for the following conditions:
 - A. To replace a large filling that encompasses at least half of the width of a tooth; or
 - B. Following a root canal, to prevent the tooth from fracturing.
- IV. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, dental veneers are considered **not medically necessary** when placed in order to cover **ANY** of the following:
 - A. Severely discolored tooth/teeth;
 - B. Worn down, misaligned, uneven or irregularly shaped tooth/teeth;
 - C. Teeth with gaps between them, to close the space between the teeth;

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- D. Teeth in a patient with cracked tooth syndrome;
- E. A broken cusp, where the cusp has broken off at the tooth;
- F. Severe tooth decay, where most of the original tooth has been destroyed.

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.21 Dental and Oral Care under Medical Plans

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.03.01 Coverage for Ambulatory Surgery Unit (ASU) and Anesthesia for Dental Services

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #11.01.15 Medically Necessary Services

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #13.01.01 Dental Implants

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #13.01.03 Dental Inlays and Onlays

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #13.01.04 Periodontal Scaling and Root Planing

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #13.01.05 Periodontal Maintenance

POLICY GUIDELINE

Generally, crown replacements are eligible for coverage no sooner than five years after replacement. Refer to the member's subscriber contract for specific crown replacement benefits.

DESCRIPTION

Dental crowns replace the exterior portion of a tooth, to re-establish its original shape and function and to create a natural appearance. Crowns are the treatment of choice in situations where tooth decay has destroyed most of the original tooth, when a traumatic event has caused damage, or where most of the tooth is restored by a dental restoration. They are also an option for people who grind and clench their teeth so much that the original structure of their teeth has been compromised.

A dental crown is a tooth-shaped "cap" that is placed over a tooth, to restore a tooth's shape and size and strength, and/or improve its appearance. A traditional crown encases the entire visible portion of a tooth from top of tooth to the gum line. A ¾ crown covers the entire exposed surface of the tooth except the visible surface next to the lip (labial) or cheek (buccal).

Dental veneers, also known as porcelain veneers or dental porcelain laminates, are wafer-thin, custom-made shells of tooth-colored materials designed to cover the labial/facial/frontal surface of a tooth/teeth. Dental veneers are made from porcelain or resin composite materials. With dental veneers, as opposed to dental crowns, the natural teeth remain largely intact, with only a minimal amount of the tooth being altered to fit the veneer. Veneers are not used to treat the lingual or back surface of the teeth.

CODES

- *Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.*
- ***CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.***
- *Codes may not be all inclusive as the ADA code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.*
- *Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/appropriate = (NMN).*

CDT Codes

Code	Description
D2710	Crown – resin-based composite (indirect)
D2712	Crown – ¾ resin-based composite (indirect); This procedure does not include facial veneers.
D2720	Crown – resin with high noble metal
D2721	Crown – resin with predominantly base metal

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Code	Description
D2722	Crown – resin with noble metal
D2740	Crown – porcelain/ceramic
D2750	Crown – porcelain fused to high noble metal
D2751	Crown – porcelain fused to predominantly base metal
D2752	Crown – porcelain fused to noble metal
D2753	Crown – porcelain fused to titanium and titanium alloys
D2780	Crown – ¾ cast high noble metal
D2781	Crown – ¾ cast predominantly base metal
D2782	Crown – ¾ cast noble metal
D2783	Crown – ¾ porcelain/ceramic; This procedure does not include facial veneers.
D2790	Crown – full cast high noble metal
D2791	Crown – full cast predominantly base metal
D2792	Crown – full cast noble metal
D2794	Crown – titanium and titanium alloys

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[<http://yoursmilebecomesyou.com/procedures/porcelain-crowns/>] accessed 04/12/24.

*American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Porcelain veneers. 2016

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*Key Article

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KEY WORDS

Crowns, Veneers

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

Based upon review, dental crowns and veneers are not addressed in a National or Local Medicare coverage determination or policy. However, dental services are addressed in Chapter 16, Section 140 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual which addresses General Exclusions from Coverage – Dental Services Exclusion and states “Items and services in connection with the care, treatment, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth, or structures directly supporting the teeth are not covered”. Please refer to the following website for Medicare Members: <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c16.pdf> accessed 04/12/24.