

Denti-Cal Bulletin



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APPROVED DENTAL RESTORATIVE MATERIALS AS SET FORTH IN ASSEMBLY BILL 999 (AB 999)

As a result of the recent enactment of AB 999 (Chapter 747, Statutes of 2003), effective January 1, 2004, providers may provide composite resin, glass ionomer cement, or resin ionomer cement restorations in posterior teeth and bill Denti-Cal using amalgam restoration procedure codes. The proper procedure for submitting a claim is as follows:

- Use the appropriate amalgam restoration procedure code (procedures 600 through 614, inclusive) on the Claim Service Line in Box 31, along with the tooth number/letter and surfaces restored.
- When a restoration material other than amalgam is used, indicate the tooth number/letter and the alternate restorative material used in Box 34 (Comments). In accordance with Welfare & Institutions Code Section 14132.22(a), the accepted dental materials are limited to composite resin, glass ionomer cement, resin ionomer cement, and amalgam.

Composite restoration procedure codes 645 and 646 should continue to be used only for anterior teeth and the buccal (facial) of bicuspid. When Procedure Codes 645 and 646 are incorrectly used for posterior teeth surfaces other than the buccal of bicuspid, this could cause a delay in processing your claims. Adjudication reason code 134 has been created as an informational code to correct these claims where Procedure Code 645 or 646 has been incorrectly billed for a posterior tooth. It reads as follows:

134 This change reflects the maximum benefit for a filling (procedures 600-614) placed on a posterior tooth regardless of the material placed; i.e., amalgam, composite resin, glass ionomer cement, or resin ionomer cement.

Reimbursement for the above claims will be at the fee for the corresponding amalgam restoration procedure code within the Schedule of Maximum Allowances (SMA), or the billed amount, whichever is less. Providers are further instructed that they may not bill beneficiaries for the difference between the amount Denti-Cal pays for corresponding amalgam rates and their usual and customary fees for composites.

Please note that the Denti-Cal program does not recognize silicate cement as an acceptable material for posterior teeth. Although Procedure 640 (Silicate Cement Restoration) and 641 (Silicate Restorations, Two or More in a Single Tooth (Maximum)) remain on the SMA and are technically still a benefit, the reimbursement rate is zero. For this reason, a beneficiary may not be billed for Procedure 640 and/or Procedure 641.

Adjudication reason code 116 has been modified to read:

116 Procedures 640/641 are only benefits when placed in anterior teeth or in the buccal (facial) of bicuspid.