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Workshop/D314 - Feb 16, 2011

Processing Procedures for Space Maintainers and New Adjudication Reason Codes

Effective March 1, 2011, Denti-Cal will begin processing space maintainers as follows:

Procedure D1510 Space Maintainer Fixed Unilateral and procedure D1520 Space Maintainer Removable Unilateral are a benefit to **maintain the space for a single tooth**. Requests for payment that involves two adjacent tooth spaces will be denied with new Adjudication Reason Code 197A that reads as follows:

> Procedure is only a benefit to maintain the space of a single primary molar.

Procedure D1515 Space Maintainer Fixed Bilateral and Procedure D1525 Space Maintainer Removable Bilateral are a benefit to **maintain space for two adjacent teeth or to maintain space for a missing tooth on each side**. Requests for payment of bilateral space maintainers when only one tooth qualifies will be modified to the unilateral space maintainer procedure code with Adjudication Reason Code 197 that has been modified to read as follows:

> Procedure requested is not a benefit when only one tooth space is involved or qualifies. Maximum benefit has been allowed.

Only **pre-operative** radiographs will be acceptable documentation to justify the need for the space maintainer. When a post operative radiograph is submitted with the requested space maintainer already in place the space maintainer will be denied with Adjudication Reason Code 029e that has been modified to read as follows:

> Payment denied due to date of radiograph/photograph is after the date of service or appears to be post-operative.

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Claims Processing Policies for Frenulectomy

Effective March 1, 2011, the following processing procedures will apply when evaluating the medical necessity for Procedure D7960 (Frenulectomy (Frenectomy or Frenotomy)).

- Treatment of the maxillary frenum when still in primary dentition is rarely indicated. However, an exception can be made when the patient has a 4-5mm diastema between the deciduous centrals, and they are crowding the lateral incisors.
- As a general rule, treatment of the maxillary frenum should be delayed until the permanent incisors and cuspids have erupted and the diastema has had an opportunity to close naturally.

Procedure D7960 Frenulectomy requires a pre-operative photograph and written documentation to include the rational demonstrating the medical necessity and the specific area the treatment was performed.

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