

Corporate Medical Policy

Dental, Reconstructive Services

File Name: dental_reconstructive_services
Origination: 3/1998
Last CAP Review: 10/2011
Next CAP Review: 10/2012
Last Review: 10/2011

Description of Procedure or Service

Reconstructive dental services may include numerous procedures from teeth removal to orthodontic, endodontic or periodontic services for fractured teeth. The term may also apply to reconstruction of crowns and/or bridges, impacted wisdom teeth, oral surgery to repair an injury, removal of a tumor of the jaw or palate, and treatment for temporomandibular joint disease. It may even include cosmetic dentistry.

Note: Criteria for coverage in this medical policy do not apply to reconstructive services for cleft lip and cleft palate. Coverage of reconstructive services for cleft lip and cleft palate is described under the Cosmetic and Reconstructive Services policy.

*****Note: This Medical Policy is complex and technical. For questions concerning the technical language and/or specific clinical indications for its use, please consult your physician.**

Policy

BCBSNC will provide coverage for Reconstructive Dental Services when it is determined to be medically necessary because the medical criteria and guidelines shown below are met.

Benefits Application

This medical policy relates only to the services or supplies described herein. Please refer to the Member's Benefit Booklet for availability of benefits. Member's benefits may vary according to benefit design; therefore member benefit language should be reviewed before applying the terms of this medical policy

When Reconstructive Dental Services are covered

Reconstructive dental services are covered when they are determined to be medically necessary.

Reconstructive dental services may be considered medically necessary:

- 1) when the procedure is intended primarily to improve/restore bodily function or to correct significant deformity resulting from accidental injury, trauma, or previous therapeutic process; or
- 2) the procedure is intended to correct congenital defects and anomalies when they result in a functional impairment.

Dental, Reconstructive Services

- I. Reconstructive Dental Services may be considered medically necessary for the following indications:
 - A. Accidental external traumatic injury to a sound tooth. Benefits include extractions, fillings, crowns, bridges, or other necessary therapeutic techniques and appliances, and are limited to those services necessary to restore condition and function to that which existed immediately prior to the accident. It does not include the repair or replacement of dentures.
 - B. Dental and orthodontic care that is directly related to and an integral part of the medical and surgical correction of a functional impairment resulting from a congenital defect or anomaly.
 1. Depending on the degree of involvement of the congenital defect or anomaly, the patient may require adjunctive dental or orthodontic support from birth until the medical/surgical treatment of the defect or anomaly has been completed (i.e., until the dentoalveolar arch discrepancies and/or maxillomandibular disharmonies are corrected). Treatment may include the fabrication of obturators early in life, and splints at the time of surgical treatment for stabilization of the maxilla and mandible. As the arches develop and teeth erupt, orthodontic treatment may be required to establish a functional relationship of the dental arches. When the deformity causes the function to be greatly impaired, obturators and pharyngeal bulb appliances may be required to assure proper nutrition, deglutition and to avoid aspiration of foreign matter during the intake of food.
 2. Orthodontics may be considered medically necessary in congenital defects or anomalies when they:
 - a) Correct dentoalveolar arch discrepancies that are part of or the result of, the congenital defect or anomaly and prevent the usual and normal action of mastication and ingestion of normally solid foods.
 - b) Correct dentoalveolar arch discrepancies, the correction of which is necessary to satisfactorily correct other aspects of the general deformity which results in a functional impairment, or to prevent relapse of such treatment.
 3. The following are examples of congenital defects or anomalies that affect the face and possibly the dentoalveolar arches, or their relationships to each other and may be medically necessary depending on the functional impairment:
 - a) Hemifacial Microsomia,
 - b) Craniofacial dysostosis (Crouzon's Syndrome),
 - c) Apert syndrome.
 - C. For oral reconstruction following acute trauma to jaws, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of mouth. Trauma may involve soft tissue injuries (skin and gums), bone injuries (fractures), or injuries to nerves (such as the lingual, inferior alveolar or mental nerves).
 - D. For oral reconstruction following excision of cancer or invasive tumors of the oral structures. For example, reconstruction of the alveolar ridge if distorted as a result of the surgical removal of a tumor.
 - E. For oral reconstruction using dental implants and related procedures, such as bone grafting if related to conditions specified as covered under medical benefits in the member's benefit booklet and the condition results in functional impairment.

Dental, Reconstructive Services

- II. There are various dental services that may not be reconstructive, but may be considered medically necessary for the following indications if specified as covered under medical benefits in the member's benefit booklet and the condition results in functional impairment:
- A. Removal of exostoses that due to their extreme size are causing functional impairment (soft tissue trauma with mastication or speech interference).
 - B. Removal of cysts that are not related to teeth or associated dental procedures:
 - 1. Thyroglossal duct,
 - 2. Branchiogenic,
 - 3. Dermoid,
 - 4. Nasoalveolar,
 - 5. Mucoceles,
 - 6. Median and incisive canal,
 - 7. Ranulas,
 - 8. Non-odontogenic keratocysts.
 - C. Lingual frenectomy for total or complete ankyloglossia (tongue-tie) if causing speech impediment or difficulty with feeding/eating/swallowing.

When Dental Reconstructive Services are not covered

Reconstructive dental services are **not** covered when

- the procedure is **not** intended primarily to improve/restore bodily function or to correct significant deformity that resulted from accidental injury, trauma, or previous therapeutic process; or
- the procedure is **not** for the correction of functional impairment related to congenital defects and anomalies.

For injuries that occur while in the act of chewing or biting.

For cleaning, maintenance, and subsequent repair or replacement of completed dental reconstruction.

Policy Guidelines

There are a variety of dental services that are not considered reconstructive services and would not be covered under medical benefits., including, but not limited to:

- I. The treatment of generally poor dental health (dental caries/dental erosion) due to certain systemic causes (e.g., Sjogren's syndrome, Crohn's disease, malabsorption syndromes, rickets, etc.).
- II. The treatment of side effects from medications (e.g., drug associated gingival hyperplasia).
- III. Any procedures performed for the preparation of the mouth for dentures such as:
 - Alveoplasty, (the surgical improvement of the shape and condition of the alveolar process),
 - Removal of the torus mandibularis or maxillary torus palatines,
 - Vestibuloplasty procedures,
 - Tissue conditioning,
 - Frenulectomy,
 - Placement of dental implants and/or bone grafting to support a dental prosthesis.

Dental, Reconstructive Services

- IV. The treatment of natural cysts of dental root origin:
- Peridental,
 - Primordial,
 - Dentigerous (intra-bony),
 - Odontogenic keratocysts.
- V. Dental care required in preparation for or as a result of radiation therapy for oral or facial cancer. Without the necessary care, patients who undergo radiation therapy about the head may be at risk for development of osteonecrosis. Extraction of teeth prior to radiation therapy of the mandibular and maxillary area for malignant tumor is not considered “reconstructive dental services” and therefore **not** covered under medical benefits.
- VI. Dental extractions prior to the initiation of cardiac surgery (when there is risk for bacterial endocarditis from procedures such as valve replacement or surgical correction of tetralogy of Fallot) or transplant surgery to prevent medical complications or infections. These services are not considered “reconstructive dental services” and therefore **not** covered under medical benefits.

Billing/Coding/Physician Documentation Information

This policy may apply to the following codes. Inclusion of a code in this section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed. For further information on reimbursement guidelines, please see Administrative Policies on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina web site at www.bcbsnc.com. They are listed in the Category Search on the Medical Policy search page.

Applicable codes: D0140, D0150, D0160, D0170, D0180, D0210, D0220, D0230, D0240, D0250, D0260, D0270, D0272, D0274, D0277, D0290, D0310, D0320, D0321, D0322, D0330, D0340, D0470, D0472, D0473, D0474, D0480, D0502, D0999, D7111-D7999, D8999, D9210, D9211, D9212, D9215, D9220, D9221, D9230, D9241, D9242, D9248, D9310, D9410, D9420, D9430, D9440, D9450, D9610, D99630, D9910, D9911, D9920, D9930, D9940, D9950, D9951, D9952, D9970, D9973, D9974, D9999, 21025, 21031, 21032, 21040, 21044, 21045, 21046, 21047, 21048, 21049, 21050, 21060, 21070, 21081, 21082, 21083, 21084, 21085, 21089, 21141, 21142, 21143, 21145, 21146, 21147, 21150, 21151, 21154, 21155, 21193, 21194, 21195, 21196, 21198, 21199, 21206, 21210, 21215, 21240, 21242, 21243, 21244, 21245, 21246, 21247, 21345, 21346, 21347, 21348, 21421, 21422, 21423, 21431, 21440, 21445, 21450, 21451, 21452, 21453, 21454, 21461, 21462, 21465, 21470, 21480, 21485, 21490, 21497

BCBSNC may request medical records for determination of medical necessity. When medical records are requested, letters of support and/or explanation are often useful, but are not sufficient documentation unless all specific information needed to make a medical necessity determination is included.

Scientific Background and Reference Sources

Dental Advisory Group

CMS601A Manual

Medical Policy Advisory Group 12/2/1999

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 5/2001

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 5/2003

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 5/2005

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel - 5/2007

Dental, Reconstructive Services

Senior Medical Director Review - 11/2009

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel – 11/2009

Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel- 10/2011

Policy Implementation/Update Information

3/98	Original policy
7/99	Reformatted, Description of Procedure or Service changed, Medical Term Definitions added.
12/99	Reaffirmed, Medical Policy Advisory Group
3/00	Corrected typographical errors. No change in policy content. Coding added.
5/01	Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review (5/2001). No change in policy. Changes in formatting.
6/03	Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review (5/30/2003). No change in criteria. Benefits Application section revised. Policy name changed from Reconstructive Dental Services to Dental, Reconstructive Services for ease in locating policy.
8/12/04	Billing/Coding section updated for consistency. Individual CPT codes listed for CPT code ranges, D0140-D0340; D0470-D0999; D7111-D7999; D9210-D9940; D9950-D9999; 21040-21070; 21081-21085; 21141-21155; 21193-21206; 21240-21247; 21345-21348; 21421-21431; 21440-21490, under Billing/Coding section. Code D7110 removed from Policy.
6/2/05	Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review - 5/13/05. No changes to criteria at this time.
6/18/07	Under "When Covered" section, removed 4th bullet "For augmentation of severely resorbed mandible. A lateral cephalometric film should document 12 mm. or less of bone height as measured in the mid-line anterior mandible." Under "When not Covered" section, clarified information in bullets 1, 6 & 7. Medical term definition added. Reference sources added. (pmo)
12/21/09	Policy reformatted. Under "When Covered" section, added another bullet: "For dental implants and related procedures such as bone grafting. (Refer to certificate language for specific conditions that are covered.) Under "When not Covered" section, removed last two bullets re: dental implants and bone grafting. System Application Guidelines not updated due to conversion to the QMP real time database. (pmo)
6/22/10	Policy Number(s) removed (amw)
9/28/10	Policy extensively revised to include additional indications based on updated benefit language. Extensively expanded the "When Covered" section for clarity. Removed the following statement previously stated as a covered indication; "For dental extraction related to radiation therapy." This is not considered reconstructive services. Removed the following statement under the "When Not Covered" section; "For reconstructive procedures delayed without medical cause beyond the immediate post-injury period (2 years)." "Policy Guidelines" section revised to discuss dental services that are not considered reconstructive. Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 1/2010. Senior Medical Director review 6/2010 and 8/2010. References added. Notification given 9/28/2010. Effective date 1/4/2011. (lpr)

Dental, Reconstructive Services

11/8/11 Specialty Matched Consultant Advisory Panel review 10/26/2011. No changes to policy statement. (lpr)

Medical policy is not an authorization, certification, explanation of benefits or a contract. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied. Benefits are determined by the group contract and subscriber certificate that is in effect at the time services are rendered. This document is solely provided for informational purposes only and is based on research of current medical literature and review of common medical practices in the treatment and diagnosis of disease. Medical practices and knowledge are constantly changing and BCBSNC reserves the right to review and revise its medical policies periodically.