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A revised version of the Code, as published by the ADA in the manual titled CDT 2015: Dental Procedure Codes, will be effective January 1, 2015, for services provided on or after January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015. The 2015 version of the Code incorporates a significant number of procedure code changes with 16 new procedure code entries, 52 revised procedure code entries and five deleted code entries. The 2015 Code also includes a number of changes within the categories of service. Those changes include a new explanation of restoration location, surfaces and characteristics; new subcategory descriptors for inlay and onlay, both under the restorative category of service; and a new subcategory under adjunctive general services for non-clinical procedures. With all the new code changes, we recommend that dentists and dental offices verify covered services for patients before rendering treatment. Details of individual coverage can be verified by calling our customer service department at (800) 662-8856 or by going online with the Dental Office Toolkit® (DOT). Accurate coding promotes faster claim processing and fewer errors, so Delta Dental recommends that each dental office have a current copy of the Code. To order a copy, call the ADA at (800) 947-4746, or go online at www.adacatalog.org.

Important reminder about coordination of benefits

If you have a patient with coordination of benefits between Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina dental plans, only submit one claim indicating both the primary and secondary plan information. Delta Dental’s claims processing system will determine the appropriate order of benefits and process accordingly. After the primary claim is processed, our system will automatically process the secondary plan. There is no need to submit two separate claims. If your practice management system automatically forwards a secondary claim to Delta Dental, please consult your system vendor about updates.

Help us maintain an accurate email list

Please let Delta Dental know if you have changed your email address. Send the updated information to us at ncproviderrequests@deltadentalnc.com or fax it to (888) 404-8725.
Delta Dental Foundation awards $40,000 to improve children’s oral health in North Carolina

The Delta Dental Foundation awarded $40,000 to community-based oral health programs and organizations in North Carolina through its Smiles for Kids grant program, designed to help improve the oral health of underserved children.

Grant recipients were selected based on criteria which included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement in the program and the ability to measure results.

“We are proud of the great work being done by this year’s grant recipients,” said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “They are all making a positive difference in the oral health of children in North Carolina. These programs help us reach more underserved children and provide them with the dental care and oral health education they desperately need to be healthy and to prevent serious health problems down the road.”

The recipients received grants for the following projects:

- Alamance County Children’s Dental Health Center in Burlington will purchase new surgical hand pieces for its program, which provides third molar dental services to underserved patients.
- Dental Foundation of North Carolina Inc. in Chapel Hill will send University of North Carolina School of Dentistry students to provide free dental screenings and oral health education to approximately 50 middle school students who attend Camp Challenge.
- Eblen Charities in Asheville will provide dental sealants to underserved patients.
- FirstHealth Dental Care Centers in Southern Pines will provide dental care to underserved children.
- Good Samaritan Clinic Inc.—Teeth in Need in Morganton will obtain dental supplies for its Give Kids a Smile Day, a dental sealant event for all 20 underserved children through its mobile unit and second-graders in Burke County.
- Guilford County Department of Public Health in Greensboro will use the funds for its Progress Access Dental Project, which identifies children with urgent dental needs through in-school dental screenings and provides them with a dental home.
- Junior League of Charlotte/Give Kids a Smile Mecklenburg County in Charlotte will deliver free dental care to underserved children through its Give Kids a Smile one-day event.
- Orange County Health Department Dental Clinic in Hillsborough will provide uninsured children with dental care including exams, fluoride treatments and sealants.
- Public Health Authority of Cabarrus County in Kannapolis will provide dental care to approximately 20 underserved children through its mobile unit and school-based dental delivery system.
- Rowan County Health Department in Salisbury will provide Morgan Elementary School children with dental care and a dental home through its Preventive Dental Project.
- Toe River Health District in Spruce Pine will serve approximately 600 uninsured children through its dental screening and fluoride varnish program.
- Transylvania County Department of Public Health in Brevard will use the funding for its Healthy Smiles Dental Project, which provides dental screenings and access to dental care for uninsured Medicaid-eligible children between ages 5 and 10.
- Wake County via Department of Human Services in Raleigh will provide 500 free dental sealants for underserved children.

Medicare change may require action

A change in the Medicare Part D prescription program requires dentists to take action before June 1, 2015.

Compliance with the new regulation ensures that prescriptions you prescribe to Medicare beneficiaries will be covered by the program.

Dentists must do one of the following to ensure their prescriptions are covered: enroll as a Medicare ordering or referring provider, or actively opt out of participating in Medicare by filing an affidavit. If you are already enrolled with Medicare, no further action is required. If you do not comply with the regulation as described above, prescriptions that you write for your Medicare beneficiaries may not be covered. Please also note that if you elect to opt out, you may not be able to receive direct or indirect Medicare payments for a period of two years. This could possibly impact the payments you receive from Medicare Advantage plans covering dental as a supplemental benefit.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the change in regulation in May 2014, and it goes into effect June 1, 2015.

More information is available through a Q&A from the American Dental Association at http://bit.ly/1tvJT8V.

Enroll in direct deposit and get paid faster

Get paid faster! Enroll in direct deposit and Delta Dental will send claim payments electronically to your designated bank or financial institution. With this free service, payments often can be in your account within 48 hours.

Enrolling is easier than ever. Simply log in to Dental Office Toolkit® and follow the direct deposit link. The Toolkit can be found at:

www.deltadentalnc.com/DOT

If you’re not already a Toolkit user, just complete a short registration to set up your account. Direct deposit account activation typically takes seven days to confirm from registration.

Direct deposit is:

SAFE
Payments don’t get lost, stolen or delayed, and the electronic transfer process greatly reduces the number of people who have access to your private information.

FAST
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FLEXIBLE
Paper and electronic claims are both paid by electronic funds transfer.

GREEN
Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements and information requests are available electronically on DOT instead of being mailed to the dental office. With instant access to your payment history, you can store EOBs electronically.

SECURE
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