### Description

This document addresses the clinical appropriateness for bone grafting and the type of grafting materials used with dental surgical procedures and also addresses the use of bone graft substitutes for all dental indications and procedures.

**Note:** Please refer to the following documents for additional information concerning related topics:

- Dental Implants: 06-001
- Osseous Surgery: 04-205
- Removal of teeth 07-101

### Clinical Indications

In general, bone grafts are appropriate when replacing missing bone of the maxilla or mandible as a result of congenital anomalies, infection, or trauma.

As it applies to appropriateness of care, dental services are:

- provided by a Dentist, exercising prudent clinical judgment
- provided to a patient for the purpose of evaluating, diagnosing and/or treating a dental injury or disease or its symptoms
- in accordance with the generally accepted standards of dental practice which means:
  - standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed, dental literature generally recognized by the practicing dental community
  - specialty society recommendations/criteria
  - any other relevant factors
- clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency and extent
- considered effective for the patient's dental injury or disease
- not primarily performed for the convenience of the patient or Dentist
- Not more costly than an alternative service.
- Dependent on group contract provisions, cosmetic services may not qualify for benefit coverage even though the services may be clinically appropriate.

The routine placement of bone grafts into extraction sites is not appropriate not covered.

**Note:** This benefit can be a covered service either under the dental or medical benefit plan. It is highly recommended that benefits, for any particular service, are checked or pre-determined prior to the start of treatment with the medical and/or dental plan. Included with a pre-determination for benefits request should be a clear explanation of the purpose for the bone graft indicating whether the tooth loss or reconstructive service is related to disease of teeth (periodontal disease and/or dental decay), pathologic (dental or medical tumor removal creating a bone defect) or the result of trauma (loss of teeth and bone creating a dysfunction not treatable by dental means). An exception can be made for bone grafting of the sockets post removal of impacted third molar teeth dependent upon review (e.g. - bony defects must be noted as clinically significant...
where healing by secondary intention would have limited success and the patient is 26 years of age or older).

NOTE: A group may define covered dental services under either their dental or medical plan, as well as to define those services that may be subject to dollar caps or other limits. The plan documents outline covered benefits, exclusions and limitations. The health plan advises dentists and enrollees to consult the plan documents to determine if there are exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to the service request. The conclusion that a particular service is medically or dentally necessary does not constitute an indication or warranty that the service requested is a covered benefit payable by the health plan. Some plans exclude coverage for services that the health plan considers either medically or dentally necessary. When there is a discrepancy between the health plan’s clinical policy and the group’s plan documents, the health plan will defer to the group’s plan documents as to whether the dental service is a covered benefit. In addition, if state or federal regulations mandate coverage then the health plan will adhere to the applicable regulatory requirement.

Criteria

All requests for bone grafting procedures will be reviewed for appropriateness by dental directors. Submitting dentists must include any and all clinical information related to the procedural request including, but not limited to, recent, dated radiographic images, a letter of rationale explaining the necessity of the bone graft and whether related to another service, a recent patient health history, and a recent dated periodontal chart, if applicable.

When the primary procedure is not a covered service, all related adjunctive procedures, including but not limited to, bone grafts and use of membranes even though covered by the plan for other services is not a covered benefit as it is related to a non-covered service.

The use of biologic materials for soft or osseous tissue regeneration will not be considered in conjunction with bone grafts.

Bone graft procedures include all postoperative care and evaluations for three months.

Any surgical re-entry procedures will not be considered for three years post initial treatment.

Note: A patient’s medical history and current medical and dental status must be submitted for review. Patients with medical complications or contraindications, demonstration of poor oral hygiene, or habits that compromise the healing process, such as smoking cigarettes or cigars, are not candidates for bone graft procedures.

Bone Grafting Procedures

D7950 osseous, osteoperiosteal, or cartilage graft of the mandible or maxilla – autogenous or non-autogenous, by report

1. This code represents a more extensive reconstructive effort to augment maxillary and mandibular defects.
2. Used for ridge augmentation.
3. Includes obtaining the graft material, but does not include the use certain biologic materials (i.e. Gem 21S, Emdogain)
4. Placement of a barrier membrane, if used, should be reported separately.
5. For benefit purposes there must be an implant and implant coverage associated with the area

D7951 sinus augmentation with bone or bone substitutes via a lateral open approach and D7952 sinus augmentation via a vertical approach

1. Only allowed for implant placement therefore if no implant coverage then deny
2. At times 7953 is incorrectly submitted stating sinus lift.
3. If 7951/7952 is allowed, the grafting material is inclusive as per CDT code descriptor

D7953 bone replacement graft for ridge preservation – per site
1. This code represents a more extensive reconstructive effort to augment maxillary and mandibular defects.

2. Used for ridge augmentation.

3. Includes obtaining the graft material, but does not include the use of certain biologic materials (i.e., Gem 21S, Emdogain).

4. Placement of a barrier membrane, if used, should be reported separately.

5. For benefit purposes there must be an implant and implant coverage associated with the area.
Coding

**CDT**

Including, but not limited to, the following:

- Bone replacement graft – first site in quadrant

- D6103 Bone graft for repair of peri-implant defect – does not include flap entry and closure
- D6104 Bone graft at time of implant placement
- D7295 Harvest of bone for use in autogenous grafting procedure
- D7950 osseous, osteoperiosteal, or cartilage graft of the mandible or maxilla – autogenous or non-autogenous, by report
- D7951 Sinus augmentation via a lateral open approach
- D7952 Sinus augmentation via a vertical approach
- D7953 Bone replacement graft for ridge preservation
- D7955 Repair of maxillofacial soft and/or hard tissue defect

**CPT**

Including, but not limited to, the following:

- 20900 Bone graft, any donor area, minor or small (e.g. Dowel or button)
- 20902 Major or large
- 21127 Augmentation, with bone graft, onlay or interpositional (includes obtaining graft)
- 21194 Reconstruction of mandibular rami, horizontal, C or L osteotomy, with bone graft
- 21366 Open treatment of complicated (e.g. comminuted, or involving cranial nerve foramina) fracture(s) of malar area, including zygomatic arch and malar tripod, with internal fixation and multiple surgical grafting (includes obtaining graft)
- 21210 Graft, bone, nasal, maxillary or malar areas (includes obtaining graft)
- 21215 Mandible (includes obtaining graft)

**ICD-10 Diagnosis**

Including, but not limited to, the following:

- K08.20 Atrophy, atrophic – alveolar process or ridge (edentulous)
- K08.21 Minimal atrophy of the mandible
- K08.22 Moderate atrophy of the mandible
- K08.23 Severe atrophy of the mandible
- K08.24 Minimal atrophy of the maxilla
- K08.25 Moderate atrophy of the maxilla
- K08.26 Severe atrophy of the maxilla
- Q67.4 Atrophy, hemifacial
- K06.9 Disease, alveolar ridge, edentulous
- K06.8 Disease, specified NEC
- K08.9 Disease, alveoli, teeth
- J34.9 Disease, nasal
- K08.1 Complete loss of teeth
- K00.0 Complete loss of teeth, congenital
- K08.0 Complete loss of teeth, exfoliation of teeth due to systemic causes
- K08.4 Partial loss of teeth
- K08.40 Partial loss of teeth, unspecified
- K08.401 – K08.404 Partial loss of teeth, unspecified (class I – class IV)
- K08.101 – K08.104 Complete loss of teeth, unspecified causes
- K08.11 Complete loss of teeth – due to trauma
- K08.111 – K08.119 Complete loss of teeth due to trauma (class I, class II, class III, class IV)
- K08.12 Complete loss of teeth due to periodontal disease
- K08.121 – K08.129 Complete loss of teeth due to periodontal disease (class I – class IV)
- K08.41 Partial loss of teeth due to trauma
An autograft, allograft or non-osseous graft can be placed into an extraction site at the time of extraction to preserve bone. There are several additional indications for bone grafting procedures other than for correction of periodontal defects. The biological rationale for the use of bone grafts is that the various graft materials contain either bone forming cells or bone-inducing substances, which serve as a scaffolding structure for new bone formation. The desired property of a bone graft material is that it is: osteogenic (a graft that contains cells that produce bone), osseoinductive (a graft that contains cells that induce new bone formation), or osseoconductive (a graft that contains cells that create an environment which is conducive to new bone formation). Bone replacement grafts may increase and/or maintain current bone levels, reduce crestal bone loss, increase clinical attachment levels of the soft tissues and reduce periodontal pocket probing depths. Some Class II molar tooth furcation defects respond to bone grafting as well. Studies show the repair process to be one of either formation of a new attachment apparatus or a long junctional epithelial attachment. The healing with alloplastic grafts almost universally shows junctional periodontal repair rather than regeneration of a new connective tissue attachment. Research literature clearly indicates bone replacement grafts result in relatively improved clinical parameters when compared to unenhanced surgical flap procedures.

There are several additional indications for bone grafting procedures other than for correction of periodontal defects. Bone grafts may be used for edentulous ridge augmentation procedures that increase height, width and/or volume of an alveolar ridge as well as for orthognathic reconstruction procedures or to replace bone missing as a result of oro-facial trauma. Augmentation (buildup) of the sinus cavity may be necessary to:

- replace missing or atrophic bone increasing the height for the reconstruction of an edentulous or toothless upper jaw with a dental implant or implants
- to close a sinus opening
- Or to replace missing bone for pre-prosthetic reconstruction.

An autograft, allograft or non-osseous graft can be placed into an extraction site at the time of extraction to preserve the ridge integrity for later tooth replacement with dental implants or for reconstruction of surgical, traumatic or congenital defects of the facial bones in conjunction with soft tissue procedures to repair, replace and restore the facial bones to form and function. Bone grafts for bone preservation are not typically medically necessary as bone heals by secondary intention. If dental implant placement is covered by the dental plan, necessary bone grafting may also be a benefit.

**Definitions**

**Alloplast:** a non-biologic material such as metal, ceramic, and plastic.
**Autograft**: a graft of tissue from one point to another of the same individual's body.

**Atrophic**: a wasting or decrease in size of a body organ, tissue, or part owing to disease, injury, or lack of use.

**Bone**: any of the pieces of hard, whitish tissue making up the skeleton in humans and other vertebrates.

**Dental Implant**: also known as an endosseous implant or fixture - is a surgically placed root form component that interfaces with the bone of the jaw or skull to support a dental prosthesis such as a crown, bridge, denture, facial prosthesis or to act as an orthodontic anchor.

**Osseoconductive**: Occurs when bone graft material serves as a scaffold for new bone growth, which is perpetuated by the native bone.

**Osseoinductive**: Involves stimulation of osteoprogenitor cells to differentiate into osteoblasts (bone forming cells) and then begins formation of new bone.

**Osteogenic**: occurs when vital osteoblasts originating from bone graft material contributes to the growth of new bone along with bone formation.

**Platelet Rich Plasma**: blood plasma that has been enriched with platelets.

**References**

**Peer Reviewed Publications:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision History</th>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Nature of Change</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>2/8/17</td>
<td>Criteria, Coding, definitions</td>
<td>Rosen</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision</td>
<td></td>
<td>2/6/18</td>
<td>Related Dental Policies, Appropriateness and medical necessity</td>
<td>M Kahn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Federal and State law, as well as contract language, and Dental Policy take precedence over Clinical UM Guidelines. We reserve the right to review and update Clinical UM Guidelines periodically. Clinical guidelines approved by the Clinical Policy Committee are available for general adoption by plans or lines of business for consistent review of the medical or dental necessity of services related to the clinical guideline when the plan performs utilization review for the subject. Due to variances in utilization patterns, each plan may choose whether to implement a particular Clinical UM Guideline. To determine if review is required for this Clinical UM Guideline, please contact the customer service number on the member's card.

Alternatively, commercial or FEP plans or lines of business which determine there is not a need to adopt the guideline to review services generally across all providers delivering services to Plan's or line of business's members may instead use the clinical guideline for provider education and/or to review the medical or dental necessity of services for any provider who has been notified that his/her/its claims will be reviewed for medical or dental necessity due to billing practices or claims that are not consistent with other providers, in terms of frequency or in some other manner.

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