



Dental Clinical Policy

Subject: Clinical Crown Lengthening

Guideline #: 04-206

Status: Revised

Publish Date:

01/01/2023

Last Review Date:

10/26/2022

Description

This document addresses the procedure of clinical crown lengthening.

The plan performs review of crown lengthening due to contractual requirements that necessitate benefits for dental services meet specific contract requirements. For example, plan contract(s) may require the provision of benefits for services that meet generally accepted standards of dental care at the lowest cost that properly addresses the patient's condition. The conclusion that a particular service is medically or dentally necessary and/or appropriate does not constitute an indication and/or warranty that the service requested is a covered benefit payable by the dental plan.

Clinical Indications

Clinically, crown lengthening is necessary and appropriate in a healthy periodontal environment to allow a restorative procedure on a tooth with little or no tooth structure exposed to the oral cavity.

Dental review as it applies to accepted standards of care means dental services that a Dentist, exercising prudent clinical judgment, provides to a patient for the purpose of evaluating, diagnosing or treating a dental injury or disease or its symptoms, and that are: in accordance with the generally accepted standards of dental practice; , in terms of type, frequency and extent and is considered effective for the patient's dental injury or disease; and is not primarily performed for the convenience of the patient or Dentist, is not cosmetic and is not more costly than an alternative service.

For dental purposes, "generally accepted standards of dental practice" 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
- the views of recognized dentists practicing in the relevant clinical area
- any other relevant factors from credible sources

General Criteria

1. Clinical crown lengthening is appropriate where the margin of a proposed restoration would violate the periodontal attachment apparatus. A current (within 12 months), dated, diagnostic, pretreatment radiograph must be submitted which documents less than three millimeters of sound natural tooth structure between the restorative margin and the alveolar crest.

References

1. CDT 2023 Current Dental Terminology, American Dental Association
2. Radiographic assessment of clinical root-crown ratios of permanent teeth in a healthy Korean population: Jour of Advanced Prosthodontics 2014 Jun; 6(3): 171–176. Hee-Jung Yun, Jin-Sun Jeong, Nan-Sim Pang, Il- Keun Kwon, Bock-Young Jung.
3. The prosthodontic concept of crown-to-root ratio: a review of the literature: J Prosthetic Dent. 2005 Jun; 93(6):559-62. Grossman Y., Sadan A.
4. Surgical Crown Lengthening: Evaluation of the Biological Width; Sharon K. Lanning, Thomas C. Waldrop, John C. Gunsolley, and J. Gary Maynard; Jour of Perio; Vol 74, No. 4.

History

Revision History	Version	Date	Nature of Change	SME
	initial	8/10/17		
	Revision	2/6/18	Related Dental Policies, Appropriateness and Medical necessity	M Kahn
	Revision	11/04/2020	Annual Review	Committee
	Revised	12/04/2020	Annual Review	Committee
	Revised	10/30/2021	Annual Review	Committee
	Revised	10/26/2022	Annual Review	Committee

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, takes precedence over Dental Clinical Policy. Dental Clinical Policy provides guidance in interpreting dental benefit application. The Plan reserves the right to modify its Dental Clinical Policies and guidelines periodically and as necessary. Dental Clinical Policy is provided for informational purposes and does not constitute medical advice. These Policies are available for general adoption by any lines of business for consistent review of the medical or dental necessity and/or appropriateness of care of dental services. To determine if a review is required, please contact the customer service number on the member's card.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the Plan.

Current Dental Terminology - CDT © 2023 American Dental Association. All rights reserved.