Coding Guideline for Palliative Treatment of Dental Pain

CDT© Code: D9110   Palliative treatment of dental pain – minor procedure

Criteria for Reimbursement:

- ND Medicaid reimburses this procedure on a "per visit" basis for treatment of dental pain.
- Procedures performed on the same date of service may be billed in addition to D9110.
- Palliative treatment does not include an examination or evaluation. Code D0140 may be billed separately; and documentation should support medical necessity for the examination per ND Medicaid dental documentation guidelines.
- Palliative treatment does not include diagnostic imaging. Radiographic images may be billed in addition to palliative treatment.

Examples of palliative treatment include:
- Smoothing a sharp edge on a broken tooth or restoration
- Placing a temporary filling in a broken tooth
- Opening an abscessed tooth to relieve pain
- Incising an abscess
- Applying desensitizing medicament to an exposed root surface
- Adjusting an occlusion on a tooth
- Cleaning inflamed tissue around a tooth
- Administering local anesthetic to temporarily relieve pain
- Extractions

Palliative care is not covered for the following:
- Prophylaxis
- Sealants or sealant repairs
- Topical application of fluoride or fluoride varnish
- Oral evaluations: D0120, D0145, D0150, D0160, D0171, D0180
- Placement or removal of space maintainers
- Preventative resin restorations
- Silver diamine fluoride

- Scaling and root planing
- Periodontal maintenance
- Denture or partial denture placement
- Denture or partial denture "steps"
- Denture or partial denture adjustments
- Denture or partial denture relines
- Tissue conditioning
- Placement of occlusal orthotic devices
- Placement of a bruxism guard
- Orthodontics
- Any other service that has been issued a service authorization

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