

COVERKIDS NEWSLETTER

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Sealants Make Sense — Not Just During Children’s Dental Health Month

There is a too-common misconception that having quality oral health care isn’t as important for children because baby teeth fall out and are naturally replaced — giving the illusion that any issues with baby teeth will resolve themselves once they’re gone. However, that isn’t the case at all.

February was National Children’s Dental Health Month, making this a great time to talk about the year-round benefits of optimal oral health — including preventive care — for children. Incorporating good oral health care practices and education into a child’s routine can set them up for success later in life.

One particularly important tool for children’s oral health are sealants. That’s why this year, the American Dental Association (ADA) is educating adults on the benefits of dental sealants for children’s teeth.

Why Sealants Are Essential

A sealant is a thin, protective coating that adheres to the chewing surface of a person’s back teeth. Once applied, the sealant flows into the grooves of the molars — areas that are tougher to reach through brushing and flossing — and then hardens. Think of a sealant like a raincoat, but instead of protecting you from rain, it’s creating a protective barrier between a child’s teeth and food and plaque. According to the ADA, sealants have been proven to reduce the risk of tooth decay by nearly 80% in molars.

Tooth decay, also called caries, is one of the most common chronic diseases among U.S. children. In fact, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 20% of children ages 5 to 11 have at least one untreated decayed tooth and about 13% of adolescents ages 12 to 19 have the same. If left untreated, tooth decay

can cause unnecessary pain and infections and can result in serious consequences, such as problems eating, speaking and learning.

Sealants are also more cost effective, timely and painless than enduring cavities and treatments like fillings or crowns. By applying sealants to a child's teeth early on, both dentists and patients can save time, money and possibly prevent more extensive procedures in the future.

Emphasizing Prevention

Sealants are a critical tool in the arsenal when it comes to preventive care. DentaQuest's goal is to prevent oral health problems before they occur, and a healthy oral health future begins with education and prevention. It's why we work to help families prioritize preventive care, starting during pregnancy, into childhood and throughout a person's adult life.

Orthodontic Update

Codes D8050 and D8060 can no longer be used. If you submitted one of these codes and it was previously approved, please complete the following:

- 1- Request the previous authorization for these codes to be released from the member's history
- 2- Submit an updated treatment plan using a current covered code per LA Medicaid ORM
- 3- Once the member history is released and the new treatment plan is approved you can proceed with member treatment

Codes D8010 and D8020 have been added effective 1/1/2022. Please review the detailed information for these codes in the Office Reference Manual it is posted on the provider portal under documents.

Additional Code Updates Eff: 1/1/22

New Code	D4322	splint – intra-coronal, natural teeth, or prosthetic crowns
New Code	D4323	splint – extra-coronal, natural teeth, or prosthetic crowns
New Code	D5227	immediate maxillary partial denture – flexible base (including any clasps, rests, and teeth)
New Code	D5228	immediate mandibular partial denture – flexible base (including any clasps, rests, and teeth)
New Code	D5725	rebase hybrid prosthesis
New Code	D5765	soft liner for complete or partial removable denture - indirect

Deleted Code	D4321	provisional splinting - extracoronal
Deleted Code	D8050	interceptive - primary
Deleted Code	D8060	interceptive - transitional

Contact Information

Provider Service

- CoverKids: 888.291.3766
 - Press 1 Automated Eligibility IVR system
 - Press 2 Benefits, Eligibility and History
 - Press 3 Claims and Payment Options
- Credentialing Hotline: 800.233.1468

Department Emails

- Electronic Claims Setup and Questions – ddusa_providerrelations@dentaquest.com(via)
- Claims Payment Questions – denclaims@dentaquest.com
- Eligibility or Benefit Questions – Dentelig.benefits@dentaquest.com

Utilization Review

- 888.294.9650

Provider Web Questions

- 888.560.8135
- www.dentaquest.com

Corporate

- Main Corporate: 800.417.7140