



MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINES
SECTION: SURGERY

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/30/10
LAST REVIEW DATE: 09/17/13
LAST CRITERIA REVISION DATE:
ARCHIVE DATE:

ORAL IMPLANT PROCEDURES

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as "Description" defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as "Criteria" defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

Description:

Implants in the mandible or maxilla, also known as oral implants, may be used in medical procedures as 'hardware' to stabilize a fracture or to reconstruct the mandible and/or maxilla in order to restore function after head and neck trauma, radiation treatments, or surgery, e.g., surgical resection in the treatment of cancer.

There are multiple types of implants. The **endosteal** implant is surgically inserted into the jawbone. The **subperiosteal** implant is placed on top of the jawbone, under the gum tissue. The **transosteal** implant is placed across a fracture(s) of the bone.

Functional Impairment:

A state in which the normal or proper action of any body part or organ is damaged or deficient as a result of a mandible and/or maxilla that has been altered by head and neck trauma*, radiation treatments or surgery.

* Trauma is defined as an accidental injury to the structures of the mandible and/or maxilla caused by an external force or element such as a blow or fall.



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ORAL IMPLANT PROCEDURES (cont.)

Criteria:

Oral implant procedures will be reviewed by the medical director(s) and/or dental coordinator.

The following are requirements for medical necessity and benefit review:

- Clinical records to include a detailed description of preoperative services intended, or,
 - Clinical records to include postoperative reporting of services already provided
 - For precertification review, the exact intent of the procedure must be established
- Placement of oral implants in the mandible and/or maxilla, and any related procedures, are considered **medically necessary** and **eligible for coverage** with documentation that the implant is used for stabilization or reconstruction of the mandible and/or maxilla to restore function after **ANY** of the following:
1. Head and neck trauma*
 2. Radiation treatments
 3. Surgery, e.g., resection in the treatment of cancer
- * Trauma is defined as an accidental injury to the structures of the mandible and/or maxilla caused by an external force or element such as a blow or fall.
- Placement of oral implants to provide an anchor or a post to support a prosthesis, e.g., dentures, partial dentures, fixed bridges or crowns, is considered a **benefit plan exclusion** and **not eligible for coverage** under the member's medical benefit.

Resources:

1. Gougaloff R, DDS. Types of Oral Implants. Accessed 09/16/2004.
2. American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS). Coding for Oral Implants. March 2013.