

August 3, 2009

DENTAL PROGRAM UPDATES

Effective August 1, 2009

Dental X-ray Frequency Schedule for Children, Adolescents and Adults: The footnote has been modified to read: *"If six or more x-rays are taken it will equal a Full Mouth X-ray (FMX). If four bitewings are taken along with a panoramic, reimbursement will be at the rate of the FMX."* The revised version is attached for your reference and will also be available on our website www.care1st.com/az.

Dental Matrix:

The Care1st Dental Matrix has been *updated* and is also available on the Care1st website at www.care1st.com/az. The update includes the removal of **D7288**, which is no longer a covered benefit.

To access the most current Care1st Dental Matrix and Dental X-ray Frequency Schedule:

1. Go to www.care1st.com/az
2. Click on the "Providers" tab
3. Choose "Dental" in the drop down menu under the "Providers" tab
4. Click on the applicable link

In order to avoid confusion, please discard any previous versions of the "Dental X-ray Frequency Schedule" and "Dental Matrix" you may have in your office. The revision dates in the footer of these documents indicate an updated date of August 2009. If you have any questions or do not have internet access and wish to request that a copy of the Dental Matrix and/or X-ray Frequency Schedule be mailed to your office, please contact Provider Network Operations at the numbers below.

Thank you!

Provider Network Operations
Phone 602.778.1800 or 866.560.4042 (Options in order: 5, 7)
Fax 602.778.1875

Visit our website at www.care1st.com/az

Blast Fax Ref # 072909 Dental Program Update

Care1st Dental X-ray Frequency Schedule for Children, Adolescents and Adults

	New Patients	Recall patient, high risk (decay is present)	Recall patient, no decay, not at high risk for decay	Current or history of gum disease	Other comments
Children <i>(before eruption of first tooth)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral examination every 6 months • Bite wing X- rays if the teeth are touching and all surfaces cannot be visualized or probed 	Bite wing x-ray taken every 6 months until no decay is present	Bite wing x-rays taken every 12 to 24 months if teeth are touching and all surfaces cannot be visualized or probed	Selected periapicals and bite-wing X rays of areas where disease is seen in the mouth	X-rays to check for growth and development (These are usually not indicated at this age)
Adolescents <i>(before eruption of wisdom teeth)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral examination every 6 months • Bite wing X rays plus periapicals or occusal views or bite-wing X rays plus panoramic view (a full mouth series is indicated when there is evidence of dental disease or history of extensive decay) 	Bite wing X-rays taken every 6 to 12 months until no decay is present	Bite wing X-rays taken every 18 to 36 months	Selected periapicals and bite wing x-rays of areas where disease is seen in the mouth	Periapical panoramic X-rays taken to check for the development of wisdom teeth
Adults under the age of 21 with teeth	Bite wing X-rays and selected periapicals (a full mouth series is indicated when there is evidence of dental disease or history of extensive decay)	Bite wing X-rays taken every 12 to 18 months	Bite wing X-rays taken every 24 to 36 months	Selected periapicals and bite wing X-rays of areas where disease is seen in the mouth	X-rays to check for growth and development (these are usually not indicated)

Panoramic x-rays

1. Ages 5-11 as the first permanent dentition begins to erupt, not more than once every 3 years
2. Ages 11-18 not more than once every 3 years with the exception of a panoramic for the extraction of 3rd molars
3. Ages 18-20 not more than once every 3 years with the exception of a panoramic for the extraction of 3rd molars

NOTE: If six or more x-rays are taken it will equal a Full Mouth X-ray (FMX). If four bitewings are taken along with a panoramic, reimbursement will be at the rate of the FMX.