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# Incisor

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## CDT 2018 Changes Are Coming January 1, 2018!

The American Dental Association (ADA) has published the new procedure code set for 2018. Be sure to order your new book! There are 37 changes associated with Current Dental Terminology (CDT) 2018. There are 18 new codes, three deletions, and 16 revisions to existing codes. The three deleted codes are related to denture repairs and are replaced by six new codes that define the repairs by arch and material. Many of the revisions made to specific existing codes are editorial in nature and do not change the meaning of the procedures or impact our coverage status and current processing policies. The following lists the changes and their related standard National Processing Policies, as well any updated standard National Processing Policies for existing procedure codes.

### Deleted Codes:

Claims for these codes with dates of service on or after January 1, 2018 will be returned to office to be resubmitted with valid 2018 CDT codes.

- D5510 Repair broken complete denture base
- D5610 Repair resin denture base
- D5620 Repair cast framework

### Standardly Non-Covered New Codes That Are Denied:

Fees for these standardly non-covered codes are **denied**, which means Delta Dental doesn't pay, but the patient can be charged. (**NOTE: Disallowed** means Delta Dental doesn't pay and the participating dentist agrees not to charge the patient.)

- D0411 HbA1c in-office point of service testing
- D6118 Implant/abutment supported interim fixed denture- mandibular
- D6119 Implant/abutment supported interim fixed denture- maxillary
- D7296 Corticotomy - one to three teeth, per quadrant
- D7297 Corticotomy - four or more teeth, per quadrant
- D7979 Non-surgical sialolithotomy
- D8695 Removal of fixed orthodontic appliance - other than at conclusion of treatment

### Standardly Non-Covered New Codes That Are Disallowed:

Fees for these standardly non-covered codes are **disallowed**, which means Delta Dental doesn't pay and the participating dentist agrees not to charge the patient. Fees for transmitting the data are considered part of the overall dental procedures performed.

- D9995 Teledentistry - synchronous; real-time encounter
- D9996 Teledentistry - asynchronous; information stored and forwarded to dentist for subsequent review

### Standardly Covered New Codes:

- D5511 Repair broken complete denture base, mandibular (Replaces D5510)
- D5512 Repair broken complete denture base, maxillary (Replaces D5510)
- D5611 Repair resin partial denture base, mandibular (Replaces D5610)
- D5612 Repair resin partial denture base, maxillary (Replaces D5610)
- D5621 Repair cast partial framework, mandibular (Replaces D5620)
- D5622 Repair cast partial framework, maxillary (Replaces D5620)
- D6096 Remove broken implant retaining screw (Once every 7 years)

### Standardly Covered New Codes:

- D9222 Deep sedation/general anesthesia - first 15 minute increment (Fees are **disallowed** for more than one hour total of general anesthesia with covered oral surgery. Use D9223 for each subsequent 15 minute increment.)
- D9239 Intravenous moderate (conscious) sedation/ analgesia - first 15 minutes (Fees are **disallowed** for more than one hour total of IV Sedation with covered oral surgery procedures. Use D9243 for each subsequent 15 minute increment.)

*Continues on page 2 ...*

**Existing Codes with New Standard National Processing Policies:**

- D0270 Bitewing, single radiographic image: Benefits for bitewing radiographs are limited to no more than two images for children under the age of 10. An alternate benefit is given of D0272, bitewings, two radiographic images. The difference in fees is **disallowed**.
- D0273 Bitewings, three radiographic images: Benefits for bitewing radiographs are limited to no more than two images for children under the age of 10. An alternate benefit is given of D0272, bitewings, two radiographic images. The difference in fees is **disallowed**.
- D0274 Bitewings, four radiographic images: Benefits for bitewing radiographs are limited to no more than two images for children under the age of 10. An alternate benefit is given of D0272, bitewings, two radiographic images. The difference in fees is **disallowed**.
- D0277 Vertical bitewings, 7 – 8 radiographic images: Benefits for bitewing radiographs are limited to no more than two images for children under the age of 10. An alternate benefit is given of D0272, bitewings, two radiographic images. The difference in fees is **disallowed**.
- D1575 Distal shoe space maintainer- fixed – unilateral: Benefits are limited to children up to age 9. (Previous age limit was up to age 8.) Benefits are **denied** for more than one space maintainer of any type provided in the same quadrant in a lifetime. Previous limit was one space maintainer per tooth space in a lifetime.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Eleanor Vien, Director of Professional Relations at 603-223-1305 or by email to [evien@nedelta.com](mailto:evien@nedelta.com)

## Tips to Expedite Claims Processing

Northeast Delta Dental strives to process your claims accurately and quickly. However, we have found that there are common errors made by dental office staff submitting the claims for your patients. These errors cause the claims to suspend for manual intervention or to be returned to your office for correction or further information. This delays payment to your office which impacts your cash flow.

Listed below are some tips that will help expedite the processing of your claims and payments to you.

- Use only the subscriber’s and patient’s legal name — no nicknames.
- Use only the current ADA procedure codes for the date of service.
- Refer to Clinical Documentation Requirements when submitting for codes listed there. The Clinical Documentation Requirements can be found on [nedelta.com](http://nedelta.com) on the log-in page of the Provider website.
- Please do not split claims for the same date of service.
- After submitting a predetermination request, please submit the claim for payment with the date of service indicated on the predetermination voucher or enter the predetermination number in the Comments section of the claim.
- Please do not submit the claim until the treatment is complete. Use the completion date as the date of service.
- Use the correct Tax ID; billing entity NPI (“Type 2”); and treating dentist’s NPI (“Type 1”) on the claim, as well as the license number of the treating dentist.
- Update us immediately of changes related to the dentists in your office, as well as pertinent business-related changes, such as Tax ID, address, and phone number changes. **Do NOT continue to submit claims under the name and license number of a dentist who is no longer in the practice as of the date of service listed on the claim.**
- Refunds are required along with requests to correct a previously submitted claim.
- Please do not enter unnecessary information in the Comments section of the claim, such as the date of the patient’s next appointment. Any Comments, whether relevant or not, shall cause the claim to suspend and payment to be delayed.

## Northeast Delta Dental Foundation Grants

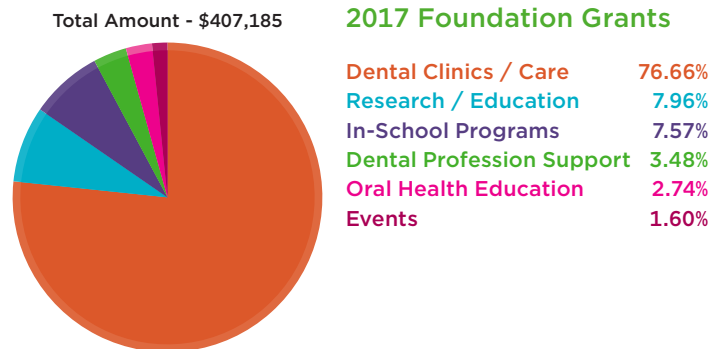
The Northeast Delta Dental Foundation recently awarded more than \$123,500 in grants to oral health programs in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. For nearly 22 years, the Foundation has supported organizations and initiatives that provide oral health education and dental care to uninsured and underserved people in keeping with Northeast Delta Dental’s mission to advance oral health and overall wellness.

The Foundation awarded grants to the following organizations.

**Maine:** Community Clinical Services, Lewiston; Greater Portland Health; Health Access Network, Lincoln; Leavitt’s Mill Free Health Center, Bar Mills; Oasis Free Dental Clinic, Brunswick; Saving Smiles Incorporated, Windsor; Shepherd’s Godparent Home, Bangor; and University of New England Miles for Smiles 5K.

**New Hampshire:** Circle Program, Plymouth; Core Physicians/Exeter Hospital; Manchester Community Health Center; Mid-State Health Center, Plymouth; Monadnock Rotary Club, Dublin; NHTI, Concord’s Community College; New Hampshire Oral Health Coalition, Concord; Saving People’s Smiles Dental Center, Concord; Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Exeter; Tri-County Community Action Program, Berlin; and White Mountain Community Health Center, Conway

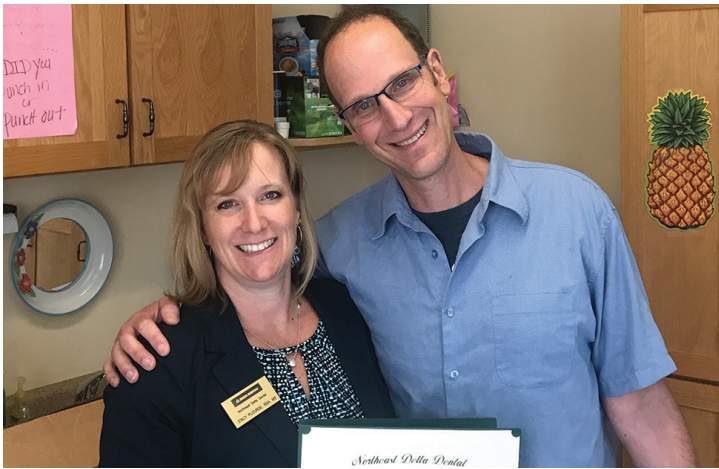
**Vermont:** Battenkill Valley Health Center, Arlington; Good Neighbor Health Clinic/Red Logan Dental Clinic, White River Junction; South Royalton School-based Health Clinic, dba HealthHUB; Springfield Medical Care, Ludlow Dental Center; Vermont Dental Hygienists’ Association; and Windsor Smiles, Windsor.



## Anniversary Awards



Dr. Albert Hardy of Colchester, Vermont was presented with a plaque commemorating his 25 years of participation by Stacy Plourde, RDH.



Stacy Plourde also presented Dr. Lee Weltman of Colchester, Vermont with a certificate in honor of his 20 years of participation.

## Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust Adds HOW®!

Northeast Delta Dental would like to announce the Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust, group 60888, will be adding the Health *through* Oral Wellness® (HOW®) program to their plan effective January 1, 2018.

HOW® is a comprehensive, patient-centered wellness program designed to help members maintain optimal oral health through education, risk assessment, and evidence-based models of care. It is based on a philosophy of patient-centered oral health, which targets benefits to those who need them most. Patients at greater risk for oral diseases or medical complications related to oral health may be eligible for enhanced preventive benefits at no additional cost.

The Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust group is made up of several towns and cities across the State of Maine and provides dental benefits to 10,772 covered lives.

## Affordable Care Act Update

The first ten months of 2017 have been tumultuous for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While the ACA remains the law of the land, the last two months of 2017 may be just as eventful.

After May's passage of American Health Care Act in the House of Representatives, July saw the dramatic failure in the Senate of the Better Care Reconciliation Act and September saw the failure of Senators Cassidy and Graham's untitled reconciliation bill to gather enough support to come to the floor for a vote. Although the ACA survived these legislative challenges, on October 11, the Office of the Attorney General issued an opinion stating that the ACA did not appropriate funds to support cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments to insurers to reimburse for copayments and deductibles insurers cannot collect from low-income insureds. The following day, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced it would cease making CSR payments.

Stand-alone dental plans were never eligible to receive CSR payments. Nevertheless, the cessation of these payments has led to uncertainty on health care exchanges, where Northeast Delta Dental does offer individual and family plans. Stable health care exchanges and stable healthcare markets as a whole are important to Northeast Delta Dental.

In response to DHHS's announcement, the Attorneys General of 18 states (including Vermont) and Washington DC filed suit to ensure CSR payments continue. Senators Alexander (R, TN) and Murray (D, WA) introduced legislation to fund the CSR payments, grant states more waivers to ACA requirements, and restore advertising funding to open enrollment. The president initially supported this legislation; then he opposed it. The bill has not been brought to the floor for a vote and will likely not be unless Majority Leader McConnell receives assurance from the president that he will sign it.

Since the president had been hinting that he would end CSRs for some time, both New Hampshire and Maine asked insurers to submit rates including CSR payments and assuming that CSR payments would not be made. Accordingly, insurers in those states will be ready to offer plans priced without CSR payments. While this will lead to higher premiums for many on these exchanges, higher premiums will be offset for many by increased subsidies, which are designed to increase in step with premiums. Insurers on Vermont Health Connect, Vermont's state run exchange, did not file rates with the assumption that CSR payments would be discontinued. However, regulators there have indicated that it is too late to raise rates for 2018.

The cessation of CSR payments is only the most recent act by the administration that would have the effect of lowering ACA participation. Earlier in the year, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that it would halve the Open Enrollment period, ending it on December 15 instead of January 31; that it would decrease the Open Enrollment advertising budget by 90%; and that it would shut down [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) for site maintenance for twelve hours every Sunday during Open Enrollment.

The result of these actions will likely be lower enrollment on ACA exchanges and higher premiums for those who do enroll, particularly for those who do not receive subsidies. Northeast Delta Dental remains ready to serve group customers and individuals and families seeking stand-alone dental plans will always have the option of [DeltaDentalCoversMe.com](http://DeltaDentalCoversMe.com), which will not be shut down for maintenance every Sunday.



## Holiday Closures

Northeast Delta Dental will be closed for the following holidays. Our website, [nedelta.com](http://nedelta.com), will continue to be available. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 23, 2017
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 24, 2017
Christmas Holiday	Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, 2017
New Year's Day	Monday, January 1, 2018

## New Participating Dentists

We are pleased to announce that the following dentists have joined Northeast Delta Dental's networks in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont:

### Maine

Brandon Jolley, DDS  
Joseph Livingston, DDS  
Rachael Creisher, DMD  
Kyle Liimataninen, DMD  
Gregory Frost, DMD  
Aaron Schmick, DMD  
Jordanne Dunn, DMD  
Christopher Pochebit, DMD  
Meghrajsinh Atodaria, DDS  
Kent Thompson, DDS  
Chelsea Toussaint, DMD  
Lauren Gallant, DMD  
Emily Burns, DMD  
Julissa Guerra Percolla, DDS  
Darren Smith, DMD  
Dennis Shim, DMD  
Byung Moo Hur, DMD  
Bradford Wenzel, DMD  
Kara Achille, DMD  
Lee Ann Cote, DMD  
Woojung Sul, DMD  
Jacob Akers, DDS  
Brian Wroble, DMD  
Courtney Schapira, DDS  
Chadd Cockrell, DMD  
Jacob Kieffer, DDS  
Jordan Hicks, DDS  
Alex Kerbaugh, DMD  
Paola Melissa Hamel, DDS  
Drew Barder, DMD  
Kayla Cuddy, DMD  
Yazhou Zhang, DDS  
Joanna Fox, DMD  
Joseph Dumont, DDS  
Alan Jones, DDS  
John Frachella, DMD

### New Hampshire

Patricia Domings, DMD  
Matthew Marquis, DMD  
Xiaoping Li, DMD  
Nathan O'Neill DMD

Nicholas Theberge, DDS  
Joseph Sevigny, DMD  
Ava O'Neill, DMD  
Ian Roberts, DDS  
Xingxue Hu, DMD  
Timothy Ahern, DMD  
Nicholas Koren, DMD  
Abdelrahman Mohamed, DDS  
Jonathan Williams, DMD  
Michael Alexander, DMD  
Ashley Blanchfield, DDS  
Patrick Racz, DDS  
Chae Lee, DMD  
Kyoung Soo Han, DDS  
Min Ko, DDS  
Alaa Ahmed, DMD  
Richard Miller, DMD  
Elaine Asanaki, DMD  
John Walsh, DMD  
Erica Locke, DMD  
Eric El Masri, DMD  
Megha Saxena, DMD  
Min Liu-Simmons, DMD  
William Fenn, DMD

### Vermont

Christine Woodward, DDS  
Nicholas Theberge, DDS  
Leonard Giordano, DMD  
Jihae Yang, DDS  
Chad Libraty, DDS  
Andrew Lepine, DDS  
Ashley Blanchfield, DDS  
Hillary Roberts, DMD  
Rachel Rivard, DMD  
Riley Baldwin, DMD  
W. Darren Boles, DDS  
Benoit Trottier, DMD



## Tom Warguska, DMD Named a Fellow by the International College of Dentists

Congratulations to Merrimack dentist **Tom Warguska, DMD**, who has been named a Fellow by the International College of Dentists!

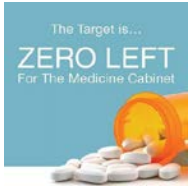
Dr. Warguska has been participating with Northeast Delta Dental since 1976 and currently is one of our dental consultants.

## Office Changes or Updates

Please contact the Provider Services department at 1-800-537-1715, extension 1100, for any dentist and/or office changes or updates. These include, but are not limited to:

- New and/or change of physical or payment address(es)
- New and/or change of phone number(s)
- A dentist joining or leaving an office
- Closing of an office or practice
- Tax information changes
- New and/or changed NPI information
- Retirement
- Sale or purchase of a practice
- License status updates

Please be sure to notify the Provider Services department of all changes/updates **in advance** to ensure proper claims payment.



# Post-Operative Pain Management CME For Healthcare Professionals



## Zero Left: Improving Post-Operative Pain Management with Fewer Opioids

Left over opioids are often saved by patients “just in case” they need them however, keeping them at home in the medicine cabinet increases the risk for addiction for patients, their family members and friends. Recent studies have shown that post-operative pain management can be improved and the number of prescribed opioids could be reduced by as much as 50% through a variety of strategies. This CME will discuss the risks associated with left over pain medications and share strategies to manage post-operative pain with fewer opioids.

This one-hour in-person CME activity is provided by Boston University School of Medicine and is approved by the New Hampshire Board of Medicine for one hour of the mandated three contact hours in the area of pain management. This activity is also approved for one contact hour of dental CE approved through the New Hampshire Dental Society. Participants may complete the two additional hours on-line to fulfill the requirement at [www.scopeofpain.org/online-training](http://www.scopeofpain.org/online-training). Dentists should take one of the two on-line hours through the new SCOPE of Pain Boston University Safe Opioid Prescribing for Acute Dental Pain module ([www.opioidprescribing.com/dental\\_landing](http://www.opioidprescribing.com/dental_landing)).

**Course Director:** Daniel P. Alford, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center

### Locations and Dates:

- Dover at Wentworth Douglass Hospital..... 11/20/17 6:00 PM
  - Manchester at the CMC Puritan Room Conference Center ... 12/04/17 7:30 PM
  - Exeter at Exeter Hospital..... 12/12/17 5:30 PM
  - Laconia at Lakes Region General Hospital..... 12/13/17 7:00 AM
  - Nashua at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center..... 12/14/17 5:30 PM
- Please arrive 15 minutes early to allow for registration.

**Who should attend:** Surgical specialists, Dentists, Emergency Department providers, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, RNs, Dental Hygienists

**Register Here:** <http://bucme.org/search/specialty/2>

Be sure to sign up for the Post-Operative Prescribing of Opioids CME listed at the location for that date.

## Zero Left: Everyday can now be a drug take back day

Recently New Hampshire had its most successful drug take back day in history collecting 13,000 pounds of medications. We know that 4 out of 5 people who become addicted to opioids begin with prescription opioids obtained from a provider or from leftover pills from a friend’s prescription. Take back day has been an important way to help prevent addiction before it begins by encouraging patients to safely dispose of unused opioids following a procedure. Four New Hampshire Health systems decided to make everyday a take back day by installing medication take back boxes in the hospitals. Anyone can dispose of unused medications at Catholic Medical Center, Exeter Hospital, Lakes Region General Hospital and Wentworth Douglass Hospital as part of Granite Health’s Zero Left opioid initiative. Please encourage your patients to dispose of their excess medications at these take back locations, it could save a life.



Boston University School of Medicine  
The Barry M. Manuel Office of Continuing Medical Education

Zero Left was made possible through an unrestricted grant from [Tufts Health Freedom Plan](#) and [Northeast Delta Dental](#) and is part of [Granite Health's](#) larger initiative to reduce the number of excess prescription opioids in New Hampshire. Learn more at [www.zero-left.com](http://www.zero-left.com).