

Fall 2018

News for the
Dentist and Staff

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Veterans Day of Care at Henniker Family Dentistry

One of the most honorable things we can do is serve our country, but by law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cannot provide dental care to all veterans enrolled in its medical program. The eligibility for outpatient dental care is not the same as for most other VA medical benefits and is categorized into classes. To fall into a class where one would be eligible for dental benefits with no time and/or service limitations, a veteran would need to have had a service-connected dental condition, be a former prisoner of war, or have a service-connected disability rated 100% disabled. To view the list of who is eligible, you may visit: <https://www.va.gov/dental>. In short, the current need for veteran dental care is endless and only continues to grow.

We are happy to help spread the word about the amazing Veterans Day of Dental Care on Saturday, November 10, 2018, from 8 AM to 5 PM, at Henniker Family Dentistry, 144 Hall Ave, Henniker, NH 03242.

If you know of veterans in need of dental care, please have them call Henniker Family Dentistry at 603-428-3419 to reserve a time slot! The dental team at Henniker Family Dentistry will be performing FREE preventive therapies such as dental cleanings and dental exams, as well as restorations. Veterans must bring proof of service to their appointment by showing their DD Form 214, or by showing their license, if it states they are a veteran on it.

If your office is providing free care for veterans, please contact Professional Relations at 1-800-537-1715! We would love to hear more details about the care you are providing.

Affordable Care Act Update

In December 2017, the President signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which eliminated the penalty for individuals who did not have health insurance coverage during the previous year. The law became effective on January 1, 2018, after open enrollment on the Exchanges so any impact on enrollment in health insurance plans will likely be felt in the upcoming enrollment period.

There is a lawsuit pending in a Texas federal court to overturn the Affordable Care Act after the elimination of the individual mandate to purchase insurance. The case was filed by numerous states against the federal government, alleging the entire Affordable Care Act is now invalid because the penalty, which was upheld by the Supreme Court as a tax, is now \$0. Oral arguments in the case took place in September.

A number of federal regulatory changes could impact the individual markets. First, the Department of Labor issued a final rule amending the definition of employer under ERISA, which allows more small businesses to join a single group health plan through an association. The rule allows working owners with no employees to join an association health plan, which could remove people from the individual market.

Second, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury issued their final rule on short-term limited duration health insurance plans. The rule extends the maximum duration of these plans from three to twelve months, which can be renewed for up to thirty-six months, at the insurer's option. These plans do not conform to ACA requirements such as coverage for pre-existing conditions, comprehensive benefit coverage, and insurers can charge higher premiums for these plans based on health status.

Northeast Delta Dental will continue to produce articles about the Affordable Care Act as pertinent updates are available. We will publish an annual article in each November issue that recaps any activities for the previous twelve months.



Richard Farina, DMD

Dr. Richard Farina of Rochester, New Hampshire celebrated his 35 years of participation with Northeast Delta Dental by choosing to make a donation of \$350.00 to the Wakefield Food Pantry. Dr. Farina's donation will help purchase 1,000 meals for the less fortunate citizens in the New Hampshire towns of Wakefield, Brookfield, Milton and Newfield, Maine.

Pictured here are Dr. Farina with Wakefield Food Pantry volunteers, Howie Knight and Janet Miller. Making the presentation was Stacy Plourde, RDH, MS, CPHDH from Northeast Delta Dental.

Consultants Corner

CDT D7241 - Removal of Impacted Tooth - Completely Bony, With Unusual Surgical Complications

There appears to be some confusion over the usage of surgical extraction code D7241 - "Completely Bony Impaction with Unusual Surgical Complications" when submitting for the extraction of impacted teeth. The American Dental Association CDT describes this procedure code as "most or all of a crown covered by bone; unusually difficult or complicated due to factors such as nerve dissection required, separate closure of the maxillary sinus required or aberrant tooth position".

The code applies to full bony impactions and therefore excludes partial bony impacted teeth; removal of a complete bony impaction in adults is inherently "difficult". While many full bony impactions may be considered difficult, they do not meet the level of "unusually difficult" or involve any unusual surgical complication. Only unusual and outlying cases that are far beyond average difficulty should be coded D7241.

This code cannot be considered for the removal of developing third molars in adolescents unless there is demonstrated associated pathology. Processing of this code will require submission of a copy of the clinical procedure note (not a narrative) which clearly indicates the specific difficulty and a description of any complication incurred during the course of the procedure. A diagnostic preoperative radiograph is required.



Aberrant position of mandibular third molar



Impacted maxillary third molar involving sinus opening

State of Vermont Employees to Implement HOW® Program

We are very pleased to announce that the State of Vermont Employees, group 7161, will implement Northeast Delta Dental's innovative Health *through* Oral Wellness® (HOW®) program, powered by PreViser® as of January 1, 2019!

You should expect that your State of Vermont patients will start to ask for your office to provide a PreViser® risk assessment to determine their eligibility for additional preventive treatment. Based on the results of that PreViser® risk assessment, these patients will then be able to take advantage of the additional preventive benefits under the HOW® program. We will work closely with the State to make the announcement to their employees, and provide education about HOW® to them.

If you haven't yet downloaded the free PreViser® tool that powers the HOW® program, or you would like more information about HOW®, please contact our Oral Health and Wellness Solutions Specialists at 603-223-1339 or HOWinfo@nedelta.com. Our Specialists, who are hygienists, will come to your office at your convenience for a "lunch and learn" to show you and your team how the tool and the program work, and how best to incorporate them into your practice. And lunch is on us!

CDT 2019 Changes Are Coming January 1, 2019!

The American Dental Association (ADA) has published the new procedure code set for 2019. Be sure to order your new book! There are 26 changes associated with Current Dental Terminology (CDT) 2019: 15 new codes; 4 deletions which are replaced by 9 of the 15 new codes; and 7 modifications to existing codes (nomenclature/descriptor changes). The four deleted codes are related to space maintainers, unilateral removable partial dentures and occlusal guards, which are being replaced by new codes to further define them by arch and material. Many of the modifications 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 as any updated standard National Processing Policies for existing procedure codes. Processing Policies relate to the Exclusions and Limitations in the dental benefit plans.

Deleted Codes:

Claims for these codes with dates of service on or after January 1, 2019 will be returned to office to be resubmitted with valid 2019 CDT codes. These codes are now defined by the ADA as being per arch.

- D1515 Space maintainer - fixed, bilateral
- D1525 Space maintainer - removable, bilateral
- D5281 Removable unilateral partial denture - one piece cast metal (including clasps and teeth)
- D9940 Occlusal guard, by report

Standardly Non-Covered New Codes For Which Fees Are Not Covered, But Billable to the Patient:

- D0412 Blood glucose level test: in office using a glucose meter
- D5876 Add metal substructure to acrylic full denture - per arch
- D9130 Temporomandibular joint dysfunction - non-invasive physical therapies
- D9613 Infiltration of sustained release therapeutic drug - single or multiple sites
- D9944 Occlusal guard - hard appliance, full arch (Replaces D9940 Occlusal guard)
- D9945 Occlusal guard - soft appliance, full arch (Replaces D9940 Occlusal guard)
- D9946 Occlusal guard - hard appliance, partial arch (Replaces D9940 Occlusal guard)
- D9961 Duplicate/copy patient's records

Standardly Non-Covered New Codes For Which Fees Are Not Covered, and Not Billable to the Patient:

Fees for this standardly non-covered code are **not covered, and not billable to the patient** as translation or sign language services are considered part of the overall dental procedures performed.

- D9990 Certified translation or sign language services - per visit

Standardly Covered New Codes:

- D1516 Space maintainer - fixed - bilateral, maxillary (Replaces D1515 Space Maintainer - fixed, bilateral)
- D1517 Space maintainer - fixed - bilateral, mandibular (Replaces D1515 Space Maintainer - fixed, bilateral)
- D1526 Space maintainer - removable - bilateral, maxillary (Replaces D1525 Space maintainer - removable - bilateral)
- D1527 Space maintainer - removable - bilateral, mandibular (Replaces D1525 Space maintainer - removable - bilateral)
- D5282 Removable unilateral partial denture - one piece cast metal (including clasps and teeth), maxillary (Replaces D5281 Removable unilateral partial denture)
- D5283 Removable unilateral partial denture - one piece cast metal (including clasps and teeth), mandibular (Replaces D5281 Removable unilateral partial denture)

Existing Codes with New Standard National Processing Policies:

- D0150 Comprehensive oral evaluation - new or established patient: Comprehensive or extensive evaluations (D0150, D0160, D0180) for children under the age of 3 are payable as D0145. Any fee difference is **not covered, and not billable to the patient**.
- D0160 Detailed and extensive oral evaluation - problem-focused, by report: Comprehensive or extensive evaluations (D0150, D0160, D0180) for children under the age of 3 are payable as D0145. Any fee difference is **not covered, and not billable to the patient**.
- D0180 Comprehensive periodontal evaluation - Comprehensive or extensive evaluations (D0150, D0160, D0180) for children under the age of 3 are payable as D0145. Any fee difference is **not covered, and not billable to the patient**.
- D1354 Interim caries arresting medicament application - per tooth: Covered twice in a 12 month period per primary or permanent tooth, with no age limits. Does not count against the fluoride benefit. If a restoration is placed on the same tooth on the same day, fees for the D1354 are **not covered, and not billable to the patient**. If a restoration is performed within 90 days of the D1354, fees for the restoration are **not covered, but billable to the patient**.
- D1550 Recementation or re-bond of space maintainer: Benefits are allowed once per space maintainer.
- D3220 Therapeutic pulpotomy (excluding final restoration) - removal of pulp coronal to the dentinocemental junction and application of medicament: Fees are **not covered, and not billable to the patient** if performed on the same date of service as root canal therapy. A benefit of a palliative treatment is given if performed on permanent teeth and any difference in fees is **not covered, and not billable to the patient**.

Fees for two or more teeth being treated in the same quadrant are not covered, but billable to the patient (were not covered, and not billable to the patient) for the following existing codes:

- D4263 Bone replacement graft - first site in quadrant
- D4264 Bone replacement graft - each additional site in a quadrant
- D4265 Biological materials to aid in soft and osseous tissue regeneration
- D4266 Guided tissue regeneration - resorbable barrier
- D4267 Guided tissue regeneration - non-resorbable barrier
- D4270 Pedicle soft tissue graft procedure
- D4273 Autogenous connective tissue graft procedure
- D4275 Non-autogenous connective tissue graft procedure
- D4276 Combined connective tissue and double pedicle graft, per tooth
- D4277 Free soft tissue graft procedure, first tooth
- D4278 Free soft tissue graft procedure, each additional contiguous tooth in same site
- D4283 Autogenous connective tissue graft procedure, each additional contiguous tooth in the same site
- D4285 Non-autogenous connective tissue graft procedure, each additional contiguous tooth in the same site

Existing Codes with New Standard National Processing Policies:

- D4910 Periodontal maintenance: Fees for D4910 when performed within 30 days of periodontal therapy by the same dentist/dental office are **not covered, and not billable to the patient (time limit was 90 days)**.
- D7310 Alveoloplasty in conjunction with extractions-four or more teeth or tooth spaces per quadrant: Fees for alveoloplasty are **not covered, and not billable to the patient** when performed with any extractions (**was only surgical extractions**) on the same date of service.
- D7320 Alveoloplasty in conjunction with extractions-one to three teeth or tooth spaces per quadrant: Fees for alveoloplasty are **not covered, and not billable to the patient** when performed with any extractions (**was only surgical extractions**) on the same date of service.
- D7960 Frenulectomy: Covered **once in a lifetime per site** when performed for speech or feeding problems, gingival recession, large diastema, or interference with a prosthetic appliance.
- D8660 Periodic observation of patient dentition: Fees are **not covered, and not billable to the patient** when submitted with a D8070, D8080 and D8090.
- D8680 Orthodontic retention (removal of appliances, construction and placement of retainer(s)): Fees are **not covered, and not billable to the patient** when performed within 24 months of orthodontic appliance by the same dentist/office.
- D8694 Repair of fixed retainers: Fees are **not covered, and not billable to the patient** if performed within 24 months of placement of orthodontic appliance by the same dentist/office.
- D9932 Cleaning and inspection of removable complete denture, maxillary: Not standardly covered. **If covered by contractual exception, counts toward the hygiene ("cleaning") benefit.**
- D9933 Cleaning and inspection of removable complete denture, mandibular: **Not standardly covered. If covered by contractual exception, counts toward the hygiene ("cleaning") benefit.**
- D9934 Cleaning and inspection of removable partial denture, maxillary: Not standardly covered. **If covered by contractual exception, counts toward the hygiene ("cleaning") benefit.**
- D9935 Cleaning and inspection of removable partial denture, mandibular: Not standardly covered. **If covered by contractual exception, counts toward the hygiene ("cleaning") benefit.**

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

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

Nicholas Flaherty, DMD
 Christopher Castonguay, DMD
 Frank Sapere, DDS
 Robert Belanger II, DMD
 Cherith Reyes, DMD
 Audra Boynton, DMD
 Hong Yang, DMD
 Yoon Seon, DDS
 Amy Beauvais, DMD
 Anthony Preissler, DMD
 Mercedes Sweeney, DDS
 Lea Beaulieu, DMD
 Luke Harden, DDS
 Shaista Rashid, DDS
 Lei Zhao, DMD
 Wael Hassan, DDS
 Annie Le, DMD
 James Griffith, DDS
 Michael Yoo, DMD
 Arwinder Judge, DDS
 Zachary Reagan, DMD
 Erica Knarr, DMD
 Alexandra Peacock-Villada, DMD
 Mattie Paradise, DDS
 Rishi Phakey, DMD
 Franchesca Rolshud, DMD
 Nicole Pentis, DDS
 Peter Ver Ploeg, DMD
 Benjamin Manter, DMD
 Marie Omeler- Emile, DDS
 Jerome Jackson, Jr., DDS
 Wyatt Traina, DMD
 Adepitan Owosho, DDS
 Robert Atwell, DDS

Adrienne Runge, DDS
 Gordon Trowbridge, DMD
 Michael Courtney, DMD
 Robert Cauley, DMD
 Colin Boswell, DDS
 Dalia Wilson, DMD
 Christina Penn, DMD
 Elizabeth Hoang, DMD
 Scott Odell, DMD
 Injea Park, DMD
 Sai Anusha Adlur Janakiraman, DMD
 Peter Wilson, DMD
 Benjamin Kim, DMD
 Brittany Tosto, DMD
 Ahmed Hamada Ibrahim, DMD
 Ji Hyun Lim, DDS
 Carolyn Belyshev, DDS
 Kimberlyn Fowler, DDS
 Curtis Hansen, DDS
 Richard Pierce, DMD
 Donald Gass, Jr., DDS
 Marisa Reason, DMD
 Jonathan Bean, DMD
 Mir Khan, DDS
 Andrew Beshay, DMD
 John Ver Ploeg, DMD
 Husam Karzoun, DMD
 Kourosh Asha, DMD

Vermont

Simran Saini, DDS
 Kate Morey, DMD
 Poorna Phaltankar, DMD
 Conor Peterson, DDS
 Crista Fantone, DMD
 Cody Spencer, DMD
 Rachel Davis, DDS
 Aimee Delorenzo, DMD
 Sara Samaha, DMD
 Jordan Lieberman, DDS
 Derek Snare, DMD
 Jillian Snare, DMD
 John Hibbs, DDS

New Hampshire

Jonathan Nutt, DMD
 John Pavlakis, DDS
 Kathleen Takach, DMD
 Alexander Mitchell, DMD
 Julia Hadley, DMD
 Tej Shah, DMD
 Aditi Gupta, DDS

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.

Northeast Delta Dental Partners with CAQH & ADA for Credentialing!

In our continuing efforts to reduce administrative time and expense for dentists, we are pleased to announce that, as requested by the Vermont State Dental Society (VSDDS) at the last DDPVT Annual Membership meeting, and by the American Dental Association (ADA), as of January 1, 2019, Northeast Delta Dental will utilize the ADA's fully electronic credentialing service, powered by CAQH ProView!

Whether you are an ADA member or not, any United States practicing dentist can use this service to help streamline the credentialing paperwork process at no cost to you! You can authorize which organizations can access your credentialing profile, including Northeast Delta Dental. The one added requirement is that this new process will require a quarterly attestation.

For more information about ADA's credentialing service, powered by CAQH Proview, visit www.ADA.org/credentialing. Once there, click on "Get Started" to begin the process of completing the online application and uploading your documents.

We sincerely hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to reduce your paper workload, allowing you to spend more time with your patients!

Please contact our Provider Services department at 1-800-537-1715, extension 1100 with any questions.

Golf Tournament Raises a Record \$45,519

The 21st Annual Thurston J. Carpenter Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Friday, September 7, at Breakfast Hill Golf Club, Greenland, New Hampshire. One hundred twelve golfers played the course.

The winning team was Jeff Golojuch, Jodie Hittle, Scott Lavallee, and Ken Pouliot. Forty-seven sponsors/donors contributed to making this golf tournament a financial success, helping to raise \$45,519. The Northeast Delta Dental Foundation will award these funds to oral health programs in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. We appreciate the broad-based support that makes this a fun event everyone enjoys, while raising money for oral health programs.

Holiday Closures

Northeast Delta Dental will be closed for the following holidays. Our website, www.nedelta.com, will continue to be available.

Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22, 2018
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 23, 2018
Christmas Holiday	Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25
New Year's Day	Tuesday, January 1, 2019