

# Full Mouth Debridement

**Guideline Number:** DCG001.11  
**Effective Date:** October 1, 2024

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## Related Dental Policy

- [Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy](#)

## Coverage Rationale

Full mouth [Debridement](#) is indicated when, due to the amount of calculus, plaque, and debris, a comprehensive periodontal examination is not possible.

## Definitions

**Debridement:** Removal of subgingival and/or supragingival plaque and calculus which obstructs the ability to perform an evaluation.

## Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this guideline does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

CDT Code	Description
D4355	Full mouth debridement to enable a comprehensive periodontal evaluation and diagnosis on a subsequent visit

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## Description of Services

Full mouth Debridement is a dental procedure that is indicated when the amount of deposits present is extensive and prevents a complete periodontal examination and diagnosis. The need for this procedure is typically seen in patients who have not received dental care in many years, have difficulty performing daily oral care, or for medical reasons. It is not considered therapeutic or preventive, and must be followed by definitive procedures such as prophylaxis or scaling and root planing.

Pursuant to CA AB2585: While not common in dentistry, nonpharmacological pain management strategies should be encouraged if appropriate.

## References

American Dental Association (ADA); CDT 2024 Dental Procedure Code Book.

American Dental Association Glossary of Dental Clinical and Administrative Terms.

## Guideline History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
10/01/2024	<p data-bbox="337 380 613 409"><b>Coverage Rationale</b></p> <ul data-bbox="337 415 1463 533" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="337 415 1463 533">• Replaced language stating “full mouth Debridement is indicated when, due to the amount of calculus, plaque, and debris, a comprehensive examination is not possible” with “full mouth Debridement is indicated when, due to the amount of calculus, plaque, and debris, a comprehensive <i>periodontal</i> examination is not possible”</li></ul> <p data-bbox="337 539 662 569"><b>Supporting Information</b></p> <ul data-bbox="337 575 1511 634" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="337 575 1511 604">• Updated <i>Description of Services</i> and <i>References</i> sections to reflect the most current information</li><li data-bbox="337 611 911 634">• Archived previous policy version DCG001.10</li></ul>

## Instructions for Use

This Dental Coverage Guideline provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard and Medicare Advantage dental plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard dental plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this guideline, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Dental Coverage Guideline is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.