



# *UnitedHealthcare Dental* Policy Update Bulletin: December 2020

Access a policy listed below for complete details on the latest updates. A comprehensive summary of changes is provided at the bottom of every policy document for your reference. To view a detailed version of this bulletin, click [here](#).

## Take Note

### New Look for UnitedHealthcare Dental Policies

Beginning Dec. 1, 2020 and continuing over the next several months, we will be refreshing the look of the UnitedHealthcare Dental Clinical Policies, Coverage Guidelines, and Utilization Review Guidelines. Unless otherwise announced, there will be no change to policy content/guidelines as a result of the new look.

### Annual CDT® Code Updates

Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, all applicable Dental Clinical Policies, Coverage Guidelines, and Utilization Review Guidelines will be modified to reflect the 2021 Current Dental Terminology (CDT®) code additions, revisions, and deletions. Refer to the [American Dental Association®](#), [Current Dental Terminology: CDT®](#) for information on the 2021 code updates. Complete details on impacted policies and corresponding code edits will be provided in the January 2021 edition of the Dental Policy Update Bulletin.

## Coverage Guideline Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Miscellaneous Diagnostic Procedures	Revised	Jan. 1, 2021

## General Information

The inclusion of a health service (e.g., test, drug, device or procedure) in this bulletin indicates only that UnitedHealthcare is adopting a new policy and/or updated, revised, replaced or retired an existing policy; it does not imply that UnitedHealthcare provides coverage for the health service. Note that most benefit plan documents exclude from benefit coverage health services identified as investigational or unproven/not medically necessary. Physicians and other health care professionals may not seek or collect payment from a member for services not covered by the applicable benefit plan unless first obtaining the member's written consent, acknowledging that the service is not covered by the benefit plan and that they will be billed directly for the service.

Note: The absence of a policy does not automatically indicate or imply coverage. As always, coverage for a health service must be determined in accordance with the member's benefit plan and any applicable federal or state regulatory requirements. Additionally, UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to review the clinical evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of a medical technology prior to rendering a coverage determination.

UnitedHealthcare respects the expertise of the physicians, health care professionals, and their staff who participate in our network. Our goal is to support you and your patients in making the most informed decisions regarding the choice of quality and cost-effective care, and to support practice staff with a simple and predictable administrative experience. The Dental Policy Update Bulletin was developed to share important information regarding UnitedHealthcare Dental Clinical Policy, Coverage Guideline, and Utilization Review Guideline updates. When information in this bulletin conflicts with applicable state and/or federal law, UnitedHealthcare follows such applicable federal and/or state law.

## Policy Update Classifications

### *New*

New clinical coverage criteria have been adopted for a health service (e.g., test, drug, device or procedure)

### *Updated*

An existing policy has been reviewed and changes have not been made to the clinical coverage criteria; however, items such as the clinical evidence, FDA information, and/or list(s) of applicable codes may have been updated

### *Revised*

An existing policy has been reviewed and revisions have been made to the clinical coverage criteria

### *Replaced*

An existing policy has been replaced with a new or different policy

### *Retired*

The health service(s) addressed in the policy are no longer being managed or are considered to be proven/medically necessary and are therefore not excluded as unproven/not medically necessary services, unless coverage guidelines or criteria are otherwise documented in another policy



The complete library of UnitedHealthcare Dental Clinical Policies & Coverage Guidelines is available at [UHCprovider.com](https://UHCprovider.com) > Policies and Protocols > [Dental Clinical Policies and Coverage Guidelines](#).