Oral Surgery Payment Policy

The following payment policy applies to Tufts Health Plan contracting oral surgery providers for Commercial¹ products (including Tufts Health Freedom Plan).

In addition to the specific information contained here, providers must adhere to the policy information outlined in the professional payment policies for Commercial and Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO/Tufts Health Plan SCO products, located in the Provider Resource Center or on the Payment Policies page.

Note: Audit and disclaimer information is located at the end of this document.

POLICY
Tufts Health Plan covers medically necessary oral surgery services in accordance with the member's benefit and when prior authorization for services has been obtained, whether in an inpatient or surgical day care setting.

GENERAL BENEFIT INFORMATION
Services and subsequent payment are pursuant to the member's benefit plan document. Member eligibility and benefit specifics should be verified prior to initiating services by logging on to our secure Provider website or by contacting Provider Services.

Emergency Services
Coverage for services related to teeth is limited to the emergency treatment of accidental injury to sound and natural teeth by a source external to the mouth. Treatment must be rendered within 48 hours of the injury and is limited to x-rays and emergency oral surgery to temporarily stabilize tissue and/or repositioning of the fractured teeth. Restorative services including crowns, fillings, and root canals are not covered.

AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS
Referrals are not required for any oral surgery services; however, members must see a contracting oral surgeon for services to be considered for coverage. If a member is in need of inpatient services, an inpatient notification is required.

Temporomandibular Joint Disorder Treatment
Coverage is provided for the cost of certain diagnostic studies and for nondental treatment for temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorder treatment. Refer to the Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Disorder Treatment medical necessity guidelines for additional information.

Note: TMJ appliances, occlusal adjustment, or other TMJ appliance-related therapies are not covered.

Extractions
Extractions/removal of teeth, and related charges, are generally not covered in an office setting; however some member specific benefit plans may indicate otherwise. Coverage of extractions/removal of teeth is limited and requires prior authorization when performed in an inpatient or surgical day care setting. Refer to the Dental Procedures Requiring Hospitalization Medical Necessity Guidelines for additional information.

Dental Implants
Tufts Health Plan may authorize the coverage of dental implants when the member has had major jaw resection or traumatic jaw avulsion. Refer to the Dental Implants Medical Necessity Guidelines for additional information.

Sleep Apnea
Coverage is provided for an FDA-approved oral appliance (OA) for members with sleep apnea when certain criteria are met. For details about coverage criteria, refer to the Medical Necessity Guidelines for Oral Appliances for Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea for additional information.

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¹ Commercial products include HMO, POS, PPO, Tufts Health Freedom Plan, and CareLinkSM when Tufts Health Plan is the primary administrator.
**Orthognathic Surgery**
Tufts Health Plan may authorize surgery to correct conditions of the jaw and face related to structure, growth, or sleep apnea. For more information, refer to the [Orthognathic Surgery for Severe Oral-Maxillofacial Functional Disorders Medical Necessity Guidelines](#).

**Cysts**
The removal of most lesions and cysts may be covered in an office setting when included in the member’s benefit; however prior authorization may be required.

**Note:** Tufts Health Plan does not cover the removal of radicular cysts.

### BILLING INSTRUCTIONS
#### Office Consultations
Although office consultations are included in the member’s coverage, they are subject to global periods and other payment edits. Refer to the [Evaluation and Management Payment Policy](#) for additional information.

### COMPENSATION/REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION
Tufts Health Plan does not routinely compensate for oral appliances used to reduce upper airway collapsibility (E0485, E0486) if a claim for the device is submitted without appropriate documentation (e.g., an invoice) indicating the cost of the device. Prior authorization will continue to be required, as described in the Medical Necessity Guidelines for [Oral Appliances for Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea](#).

**Anesthesia**
Tufts Health Plan does not routinely compensate for the following HCPCS codes in Table 1 when billed with the HCPCS codes in Table 2, as the procedures in Table 1 are included in the primary procedure. Refer to the current HCPCS Level II Manual for additional information.

**Table 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D9210</td>
<td>Local anesthesia not in conjunction with operative or surgical procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D9211</td>
<td>Regional block anesthesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D9212</td>
<td>Trigeminal division block anesthesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D9215</td>
<td>Local anesthesia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D7220-D7241</td>
<td>Removal of impacted tooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D7250</td>
<td>Surgical removal of residual tooth roots cutting procedure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assistant Surgeons/Co-Surgeons and Team Surgery**
In alignment with CMS and the American College of Surgeons, Tufts Health Plan will consider compensation for services requiring multiple physicians when the procedure warrants. The appropriate modifier must be appended to compensate the claim according to the services rendered.

**Surgical Global Day Period**
Surgical procedures are assigned a global day period of 0, 10 or 90 day(s) by CMS based on the complexity of the procedure. Services rendered within the assigned specified numbers of global days, including evaluation and management services, are considered inclusive to the primary procedure.

**DOCUMENT HISTORY**
- May 2017: Policy reviewed by committee; reworded anesthesia language for clarity
- January 2017: Template updates
- September 2015: Template conversion, template updates
- December 2014: Moved information about unlisted procedure codes to the Claims Submission payment policy, template updates
- October 2013: Policy reviewed, minor content and formatting changes, template updates
- September 2013: Template conversion
July 2012: Removed reference indicating all services require prior authorization.
April 2012: Template updates.
March 2012: Updated CareLink disclaimer language
October 2011: Policy reviewed, added information regarding sleep apnea, template changes
November 2009: Added CPT/HCPCS codes and information on unlisted codes, add-on codes, assistant surgeons and surgical global day period
February 2008: Revised general benefit information to include self-service channels information

AUDIT AND DISCLAIMER INFORMATION
Tufts Health Plan reserves the right to conduct audits on any provider and/or facility to ensure compliance with the guidelines stated in this payment policy. If such an audit determines that your office/facility did not comply with this payment policy, Tufts Health Plan will expect your office/facility to refund all payments related to non-compliance. For more information about Tufts Health Plan’s audit policies, refer to our website.

This policy provides information on Tufts Health Plan claims adjudication processing guidelines. As every claim is unique, the use of this policy is neither a guarantee of payment nor a final prediction of how specific claim(s) will be adjudicated. Claims payment is subject to member eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization and utilization management guidelines when applicable, and adherence to plan policies and procedures and claims editing logic. An authorization is not a guarantee of payment. Claims for services subject to authorization may be reviewed for accuracy and compliance with payment policies.

This policy does not apply to Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO, Tufts Health Plan Senior Care Options, Tufts Health Public Plans or the Private Health Care Systems (PHCS) network (also known as Multiplan). This policy applies to CareLink for providers in the Massachusetts and Rhode Island service areas. Providers in the New Hampshire service area are subject to Cigna’s provider agreements with respect to CareLink members.