

# Dental office update

## Quick access to dental resources

We encourage you to visit our dental provider home page at [modahealth.com/dental](http://modahealth.com/dental). This site allows you to access the most current version of our Dentist Handbooks, download credentialing forms, sign up for a Benefit Tracker account to check patient benefits and eligibility, and much more!

## Thank you for partnering with us!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our participating dentists in Alaska! Your contributions to our network make a huge impact on our members and we're very proud to partner with you.

Because we're always looking for ways to be better and provide a well-rounded panel of dental specialists for our members to

access, please let us know if there are any specialists in your area that you would like us to contact to become a participating provider with Delta Dental of Alaska.

To nominate your specialist, contact Kristin Nistler at 888-374-8905 ext. 5368, or email at [kristin.nistler@odscompanies.com](mailto:kristin.nistler@odscompanies.com).

## Have you updated your business associate agreement?

If you send electronic claims, please take a moment to confirm that you have an updated business associate agreement (BAA) with your claims vendor. Last year the federal government passed Omnibus legislation related to the privacy of health information. This included new requirements to extend privacy and security provisions to subcontractors and

vendors of a business associate. These associates are now subject to the same requirements for PHI data security as covered entities.

The compliance date for this update was September 23, 2013. Please consult with your HIPAA specialist or your claims vendor for assistance.

## Free marketing tools for your practice

New patients are looking for you! Help them find you by taking advantage of the free online marketing tools available to your practice at [dentaloptimizer.com/dental-news/](http://dentaloptimizer.com/dental-news/).

## Let us know when changes occur

To help us maintain the most up-to-date information on your practice, please contact us when any of the following changes occur:

- > A dentist joins or leaves your practice
- > You change your business or payment address
- > You're buying, selling or retiring from a practice

Please email your updates to [dpr@odscompanies.com](mailto:dpr@odscompanies.com) or call us toll-free at 888-374-8905.

## Say goodbye to paper!

Email [dpr@odscompanies.com](mailto:dpr@odscompanies.com) and request this newsletter electronically.

Dental plans in Alaska provided by Delta Dental of Alaska. 7994576-AK (10/14)

## Tips to help expedite claims processing

Processing claims can be delayed when the incorrect use of dental procedure codes are applied. This happens when there is a misunderstanding of the procedure code definition.

When submitting your dental claims, make sure to use the appropriate code for the situation based on the complete description in the most current CDT code book.

**D3220 therapeutic pulpotomy** – This code should be used when there is “surgical removal of a portion of the pulp with the aim of maintaining the vitality of the remaining portion by means of an adequate dressing.” This means the pulp in the canals remains and a permanent type of restoration is placed. This would be the final treatment.

Please note the following rules do apply:

- › Per the CDT description, “this is not to be construed as the first stage of root canal therapy”
- › This code should not be used for pulpal debridement (D3221)
- › This code should not be used if medication was placed and the patient is being referred to the endodontist to evaluate or complete a root canal (D3221)

**D3351 apexification** – This code is generally used on permanent teeth of children when the apex is still open. The dentist will place medication in the canals while waiting for the apex to close prior to placing final root canal filling material.

A number of visits over several months are involved (D3352) until the dentist feels there is adequate closure/repair to complete the procedure (D3353).

These codes usually would not be used for a first step RCT (debridement), D3221, and completed RCT (D3310/D3320/D3330).

If D3351 is appropriate to your specific situation, please submit current periapical radiograph and a detailed tooth specific narrative indicating the necessity of the treatment. This will also need to be included when submitting the subsequent claims for D3352 and D3353.



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- › Look inside for tips to help expedite claims processing, free marketing tools for your practice, and more.