

## DENTAL GLOSSARY OF TERMS

*There are many terms used daily by dentists and their staff in the course of delivering care to patients, maintaining patient records and preparing claims. Many terms are familiar, especially to experienced individuals. New dentists and staff, however, may not be as familiar – and over time new terms come into use and old terms are revised for clarity.*

*So here is a glossary of dental clinical and administrative terms.*

### A

**abscess:** Acute or chronic localised inflammation, probably with a collection of pus, associated with tissue destruction and, frequently, swelling; usually secondary to infection.

**acute periradicular** or **acute apical abscess**—An inflammatory reaction to pulpal infection and necrosis characterized by rapid onset, spontaneous pain, tenderness of the tooth to pressure, pus formation and eventual swelling of associated tissues. May also be known as acute periapical abscess, acute alveolar abscess, dentoalveolar abscess, phoenix abscess, recrudescant abscess, secondary apical abscess.

**chronic periradicular** or **chronic periapical abscess**—An inflammatory reaction to pulpal infection and necrosis characterized by gradual onset, little or no discomfort and the intermittent discharge of pus through an associated sinus tract. May also be known as chronic alveolar abscess, chronic apical abscess, chronic dentoalveolar abscess, suppurative apical periodontitis, suppurative periradicular periodontitis.

**abutment:** A tooth or implant fixture used as a support for a prosthesis.

**abutment crown:** Artificial crown also serving for the retention or support of a dental prosthesis.

**accession:** Addition of a test specimen, previously collected by a health care provider, to a laboratory specimen collection; recording of essential specimen identification data in a laboratory-maintained file in chronological order of laboratory specimen acquisition; assignment to the specimen of an identification code.

**acid etching:** Use of an acidic chemical substance to prepare the tooth enamel and or dentin surface to provide retention for bonding.

**adhesion:** State in which two surfaces are held together by chemical or physical forces or both with or without the aid of an adhesive. Adhesion is one aspect of bonding.

**adhesive:** Any substance that joins or creates close adherence of two or more surfaces. Intermediate material that causes two materials to adhere to each other.

**adjunctive:** A secondary treatment in addition to the primary therapy.

**administrative costs:** Overhead expenses incurred in the operation of a dental benefit program, exclusive of costs of dental services provided.

**administrative services only (ASO):** An arrangement under which a third party, for a fee, processes claims and handles paperwork for a self-funded group. This frequently includes all insurance company services (actuarial services, underwriting, benefit description, etc.) except assumption of risk.

**adult dentition:** The permanent teeth of adulthood that either replace the primary dentition or erupt distally to the primary molars.

**adverse selection.** A statistical condition within a group when there is a greater demand for dental services and/or more services necessary than the average expected for that group.

**allogenic:** Belonging to the same species, but genetically different. See **graft**.

**alloplastic:** Refers to synthetic material often used for tissue augmentation or replacement.

**alloy:** Compound combining two or more elements having properties not existing in any of the single constituent elements. Sometimes used to refer to **amalgam**.

**alveolar:** Referring to the bone to which a tooth is attached.

**alveoloplasty:** Surgical procedure for recontouring supporting bone, sometimes in preparation for a prosthesis.

**amalgam:** An alloy used in direct dental restorations. Typically composed of mercury, silver, tin and copper along with other metallic elements added to improve physical and mechanical properties.

**analgesia:** See definition under **anesthesia**.

**anatomical crown:** That portion of tooth normally covered by, and including, enamel.

**ancillary:** Subordinate or auxiliary to something or someone else; supplementary.

**anesthesia:** A patient's level of consciousness is determined by the provider and not the route of administration of anesthesia. State dental boards regulate the use of anesthesia techniques. Methods of Anxiety and Pain Control

**analgesia**—the diminution or elimination of pain.

**deep sedation**—a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients cannot be easily aroused but respond purposefully following repeated or painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function may be impaired. Patients may require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation may be inadequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.

**general anesthesia**—a drug-induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is often impaired. Patients often require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function may be impaired.

**local anesthesia**—the elimination of sensation, especially pain, in one part of the body by the topical application or regional injection of a drug.

**minimal sedation**—a minimally depressed level of consciousness, produced by a pharmacological method, that retains the patient's ability to independently and continuously maintain an airway and respond normally to tactile stimulation and verbal command. Although cognitive function and coordination may be modestly impaired, ventilatory and cardiovascular functions are unaffected.

**moderate sedation**—a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.

### **Routes of Administration**

**enteral**—any technique of administration in which the agent is absorbed through the gastrointestinal (GI) tract or oral mucosa (i.e., oral, rectal, sublingual).

**inhalation**—a technique of administration in which a gaseous or volatile agent is introduced into the lungs and whose primary effect is due to absorption through the gas/blood interface.

**parenteral**—a technique of administration in which the drug bypasses the gastrointestinal (GI) tract (i.e., intramuscular [IM], intravenous [IV], intranasal [IN], submucosal [SM], subcutaneous [SC], intraosseous [IO].)

**transdermal**—a technique of administration in which the drug is administered by patch or iontophoresis through skin.

**transmucosal**—a technique of administration in which the drug is administered across mucosa such as intranasal, sublingual or rectal.

**anomaly**: deviation from the normal anatomic structure, growth, development or function; an abnormality.

**anterior**: Mandibular and maxillary centrals, laterals and cuspids. The designation of permanent anterior teeth in the Universal/National tooth numbering system include teeth 6 through 11 (maxillary), and 22 through 27 (mandibular); primary teeth in the Universal/National tooth numbering system are designated C through H (maxillary), and M through R (mandibular). Also refers to the teeth and tissues located towards the front of the mouth.

**anxiolysis**: The diminution or elimination of anxiety.

**apex**: The tip or end of the root end of the tooth.

**apexification**: The process of induced root development to encourage the formation of a calcified barrier in a tooth with immature root formation or an open apex. May involve the placement of an artificial apical barrier prior to nonsurgical endodontic obturation.

**apexogenesis**: Vital pulp therapy performed to encourage continued physiological formation and development of the tooth root.

**apicoectomy**: Amputation of the apex of a tooth.

**appeal**: A formal request that an insurer review denied or unpaid claims for services or supplies provided. An appeal can be filed by a healthcare provider or a patient in an attempt to recover reimbursement from a third-party payer such as a private insurance company.

**arch, dental**: The curved composite structure of the natural dentition and the residual ridge, or the remains thereof, after the loss of some or all of the natural teeth.

**areas of oral cavity**: A two digit numeric system used to report regions of the oral cavity to third party payers.

00 entire oral cavity

01 maxillary arch  
02 mandibular arch  
10 upper right quadrant  
20 upper left quadrant  
30 lower left quadrant  
40 lower right quadrant

**arthrogram:** A diagnostic X-ray technique used to view bone structures following injection of a contrast medium into a joint.

**artificial crown:** Restoration covering or replacing the major part, or the whole of the clinical crown of a tooth, or implant.

**autogenous:** See **graft**.

**avulsion:** Separation of tooth from its socket due to trauma. See **evulsion**.

## **B**

**bad faith insurance practices:** The failure to deal with a beneficiary of a dental benefit plan fairly and in good faith; or an activity which impairs the right of the beneficiary to receive the appropriate benefit of a dental benefits plan or to receive them in a timely manner. Some examples of potential bad faith insurance practices include: evaluating claims based on standards which are significantly at variance with the standards of the community; failure to properly investigate a claim for care; and unreasonably and purposely delaying and/or withholding payment of a claim. See **prompt payment laws**.

**balance billing:** Billing a patient for the difference between the dentist's actual charge and the amount reimbursed under the patient's dental benefit plan.

**barrier membrane:** Usually a thin, sheet-like usually **non-autogenous** material used in various surgical regenerative procedures.

**behavior management:** Techniques or therapies used to alter or control the actions of a patient who is receiving dental treatment. Examples include use of a papoose board, education or anxiety relief techniques.

**benefit:** The amount payable by a third party toward the cost of various covered dental services or the dental service or procedure covered by the plan.

**benign:** The mild or non-threatening character of an illness or the non-malignant character of a neoplasm.

**bicuspid:** A premolar tooth; a tooth with two cusps.

**bilateral:** Occurring on, or pertaining to, both right and left sides.

**biologic materials:** Agents that alter wound healing or host-tumor interaction. Such materials can include cytokines, growth factor, or vaccines, but do not include any actual hard or soft tissue graft material. These agents are added to graft material or used alone to effect acceleration of healing or regeneration in hard and soft tissue surgical procedures. Also known as biologic response modifiers.

**biopsy:** Process of removing tissue for histologic evaluation.

**bitewing radiograph:** Interproximal radiographic view of the coronal portion of the tooth/teeth. A form of dental radiograph that may be taken with the long axis of the image oriented either horizontally or vertically, that reveals approximately the coronal halves of the maxillary and mandibular teeth and portions of the interdental alveolar septa on the same image.

**bleaching:** Process of lightening of the teeth, usually using a chemical oxidizing agent and sometimes in the presence of heat. Removal of deep seated intrinsic or acquired discolorations from crowns of vital and non-vital teeth through the use of chemicals, sometimes in combination with the application of heat and light. Bleaching has been achieved through short and long term applications of pastes or solutions containing various concentrations of hydrogen peroxide and carbamide peroxide. Normally applied externally to teeth; may be used internally for endodontically treated teeth.

**bonding:** Process by which two or more components are made integral by mechanical and/or chemical adhesion at their interface.

**bounded tooth space:** See **tooth bounded space**.

**bridge:** See **fixed partial denture**.

**bruxism:** The **parafunctional** grinding of the teeth.

**buccal:** Pertaining to or toward the cheek (as in the buccal surface of a posterior tooth).

**by report:** A written description of the service provided that is prepared when the term “by report” is included in a procedure code nomenclature; may be requested by a third-party payer to provide additional information for claims processing.

## C

**calculus:** Hard deposit of mineralized substance adhering to crowns and/or roots of teeth or prosthetic devices.

**canal:** A relatively narrow tubular passage or channel.

**root canal** - Space inside the root portion of a tooth containing pulp tissue.

**mandibular canal** - The passage which transmits vessels and nerves through the jaw to branches that distributes them to the teeth.

**cantilever extension:** Part of a fixed prosthesis that extends beyond the abutment to which it is attached and has no additional support.

**capitation:** A capitation program is one in which a dentist or dentists contract with the programs' sponsor or administrator to provide all or most of the dental services covered under the program to subscribers in return for payment on a per-capita basis.

**caries:** Commonly used term for tooth decay.

**carious lesion:** A **cavity** caused by caries.

**carrier:** See **third-party**.

**case management:** The monitoring and coordination of treatment rendered to patients with specific diagnoses or requiring high cost or extensive services. May include complex treatment plans or discussion between multiple practitioners.

A process of identifying patients with special health care needs, developing a healthcare strategy that meets those needs, and coordinating and monitoring the care, with the ultimate goal of achieving the optimum health care outcome in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

**cast:** See **diagnostic cast** or **study model**.

**cavity:** Missing tooth structure. A cavity may be due to decay, erosion or abrasion. If caused by caries; also referred to as carious lesion.

**cement base:** Material used under a filling to replace lost tooth structure.

**cementum:** Hard connective tissue covering the outer surface of a tooth root.

**cephalometric image:** A standardized, extraoral projection utilized in the scientific study of the measurements of the head.

**ceramic:** Non-metal, non-resin inorganic refractory compounds processed at high temperatures (600°C/1112°F and above) and pressed, polished or milled – including porcelains, glasses, and glass-ceramics. See **porcelain/ceramic**.

**classification of Metals:** See **metals**,

**classification of cleft palate:** Congenital deformity resulting in lack of fusion of the soft and/or hard palate, either partial or complete.

**clenching:** The clamping and pressing of the jaws and teeth together in centric occlusion, frequently associated with psychological stress or physical effort.

**clinical crown:** That portion of a tooth not covered by tissues.

**closed panel:** A dental insurance benefit plan which requires the eligible patients to receive their dental care from a specific dentist who has contractually agreed to the terms, payments and benefits of the plan. Usually only a limited number of dentists in an area are allowed to participate in these types of plans.

**closed reduction:** The re-approximation of segments of a fractured bone without direct visualization of the bony segments.

**complete denture:** A prosthetic for the edentulous maxillary or mandibular arch, replacing the full dentition. Usually includes six anterior teeth and eight posterior teeth.

**complete series:** An entire set of radiographs. A set of intraoral radiographs usually consisting of 14 to 22 periapical and posterior bitewing images intended to display the crowns and roots of all teeth, periapical areas and alveolar bone crest (source: FDA/ADA radiographic guidelines).

**composite:** A dental restorative material made up of disparate or separate parts (e.g. resin and quartz particles).

**compound fracture:** Break in bone which is exposed to external contamination.

**comprehensive oral evaluation:** See **evaluation**.

**consultation:** In a dental setting, a diagnostic service provided by a dentist where the dentist, patient, or other parties (e.g., another dentist, physician, or legal guardian) discuss the patient's dental needs and proposed treatment modalities.

**contiguous:** Adjacent; touching.

**contract:** A legally enforceable agreement between two or more individuals or entities that confers rights and duties on the parties. Common types of contracts include: 1) contracts between a dental benefit organization and an individual dentist to provide dental treatment to members of an alternative benefit plan. These contracts define the dentist's duties both to beneficiaries of the dental benefit plan and the dental benefit organization, and usually define the manner in which the dentist will be reimbursed; and 2) contracts between a dental benefit organization and a group plan sponsor. These contracts typically describe the benefits of the group plan and the rates to be charged for those benefits.

**coping:** A thin covering of the coronal portion of the tooth usually without anatomic conformity. Custom made or pre-fabricated thimble-shaped core or base layer designed to fit over a natural tooth preparation, a post core, or implant abutment so as to act as a substructure onto which other components can be added to give final form to a restoration or prosthesis. It can be used as a definitive restoration or as part of a transfer procedure.

**core buildup:** the replacement of a part or all of the crown of a tooth whose purpose is to provide a base for the retention of an indirectly fabricated crown.

**coronal:** Refers to the crown of a tooth.

**cosmetic dentistry:** Those services provided by dentists solely for the purpose of improving the appearance when form and function are satisfactory and no pathologic conditions exist [source: ADA policy "Cosmetic Dentistry (1976:850)].

**cost containment:** Features of a dental benefit program or of the administration of the program designed to reduce or eliminate certain charges to the plan.

**cost sharing:** The share of health expenses that a beneficiary must pay, including the deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and charges over the amount reimbursed by the dental benefit plan.

**coverage:** Benefits available to an individual covered under a dental benefit plan.

**covered charges:** Services and supplies which are reimbursed in whole or in part under the conditions of the dental benefit plan, subject to all the terms and conditions of the agreement or insurance policy. Charges are subject to any contractual agreements, exclusions and limitations. Any charges not covered by the plan are considered **non-covered charges**.

**covered person:** An individual who is eligible for benefits under a dental benefit program.

**covered services:** Services for which payment is provided under the terms of the dental benefit contract.

**cracked tooth syndrome:** A collection of symptoms characterised by transient acute pain experienced when chewing.

**crown:** An artificial replacement that restores missing tooth structure by surrounding the remaining coronal tooth structure, or is placed on a dental implant. It is made of metal, ceramic or polymer materials or a combination of such materials. It is retained by luting cement or mechanical means. (American College of Prosthodontics; The Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms). See also **abutment crown, anatomical crown, clinical crown**.

**crown lengthening:** A surgical procedure exposing more tooth for restorative purposes by apically positioning the gingival margin and removing supporting bone.

**culture and sensitivity test:** Clinical laboratory test which identifies a microorganism and the ability of various antibiotics to control the microorganism.

**curettage:** Scraping and cleaning the walls of a real or potential space, such as a gingival pocket or bone, to remove pathologic material.

**cusp:** Pointed or rounded eminence on or near the masticating surface of a tooth.

**cuspid:** Single cusped tooth located between the incisors and bicuspids.

**cyst:** Pathological cavity, usually lined with epithelium, containing fluid or soft matter.

**odontogenic cyst**—Cyst derived from the epithelium of odontogenic tissue (developmental, primordial).

**periapical cyst**—An apical inflammatory cyst containing a sac-like epithelium-lined cavity that is open to and continuous with the root canal.

**cytology:** The study of cells, including their anatomy, chemistry, physiology and pathology.

## D

**debridement:** Removal of subgingival and/or supragingival plaque and calculus which obstructs the ability to perform an evaluation; removal of contused and devitalized tissue from a wound surface.

**decay:** The lay term for carious lesions in a tooth; decomposition of tooth structure.

**deciduous:** Having the property of falling off or shedding; a term used to describe the primary teeth.

**deductible:** The amount of dental expense for which the beneficiary is responsible before a third party will assume any liability for payment of benefits. Deductible may be an annual or one-time charge, and may vary in amount from program to program. See **family deductible**.

**deep sedation:** See definition under **anesthesia**.

**dental assessment:** A limited clinical inspection that is performed to identify possible signs of oral or systemic disease, malformation, or injury, and the potential need for referral for diagnosis and treatment.

**dental benefit organization:** Any organization offering a dental benefit plan. Also known as dental plan organization.

**dental benefit plan:** Entitles covered individuals to specified dental services in return for a fixed, periodic payment made in advance of treatment. Such plans often include the use of deductibles, coinsurance, and/or maximums to control the cost of the program to the purchaser.

**dental benefit program:** The specific dental benefit plan being offered to enrollees by the sponsor.

**dental enrollment credentialing:** A formal process that defines the standards and requirements for participation in third-party programs. The process verifies professional qualifications in order to allow licensed dentists to provide services to members of these programs.

**dental prophylaxis:** See **prophylaxis**.

**dentin:** Hard tissue which forms the bulk of the tooth and develops from the dental papilla and dental pulp, and in the mature state is mineralized.

**dentistry:** The evaluation, diagnosis, prevention and/or treatment (nonsurgical, surgical or related procedures) of diseases, disorders and/or conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area and/or the adjacent and associated structures and their impact on the human body; provided by a dentist, within the scope of his/her education, training and experience, in accordance with the ethics of the profession and applicable law.

**dentition:** The teeth in the dental arch.

**adolescent dentition**—In orthodontic coding, refers to the stage of permanent dentition prior to cessation of growth.

**deciduous dentition**—Refers to the deciduous or primary teeth in the dental arch.

**permanent dentition (adult dentition)** – Refers to the permanent teeth in the dental arch.

**transitional dentition**—Refers to a mixed dentition; begins with the appearance of the permanent first molars and ends with the exfoliation of the deciduous teeth.

**denture:** An artificial substitute for some or all of the natural teeth and adjacent tissues.

**denture base:** That part of a denture that makes contact with soft tissue and retains the artificial teeth.

**dependents:** Generally spouse and children of covered individual, as defined by terms of the dental benefit contract.

**diagnostic cast:** Plaster or stone model of teeth and adjoining tissues; also referred to as study model. Primarily for use in extra-oral examinations of relationships existing between oral tissues so as to determine how those relationships will effect form and function of a dental restoration or appliance being planned, or so as to determine whether subsequent pre-definitive impression tissue treatment or modification might be necessary in order to insure optimal performance of the planned restoration or appliance.

**diagnostic imaging:** A visual display of structural or functional patterns for the purpose of diagnostic evaluation. May be photographic or radiographic.

**diastema:** A space, such as one between two adjacent teeth in the same dental arch.

**direct pulp cap:** Procedure in which the exposed vital pulp is treated with a therapeutic material, followed with a base and restoration, to promote healing and maintain pulp vitality.

**direct reimbursement:** A self-funded program in which the individual is reimbursed based on a percentage of dollars spent for dental care provided, and which allows beneficiaries to seek treatment from the dentist of their choice.

**direct restoration:** A restoration fabricated inside the mouth.

**discectomy:** Excision of the intra-articular disc of a joint.

**displaced tooth:** A partial evulsion of a tooth; may be mesial, distal, facial, lingual or incisal.

**distal:** Surface or position of a tooth most distant from the median line of the arch.

**dressings:** Medication, bandages or other therapeutic material applied to a wound.

**dry socket:** Localised inflammation of the tooth socket following extraction due to infection or loss of blood clot; osteitis.

**dual choice program:** A benefit package from which an eligible individual can choose to enroll in either an alternative dental benefit program or a traditional dental benefit program.

## E

**Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT):** A federal program that provides comprehensive health care for children through periodic screenings, diagnostic and treatment services.

**edentulous:** Without teeth.

**eligible person:** See **beneficiary**.

**enamel:** Hard calcified tissue covering dentin of the crown of tooth.

**endodontics:** Endodontics is the branch of dentistry which is concerned with the morphology, physiology and pathology of the human dental pulp and periradicular tissues. Its study and practice encompass the basic and clinical sciences including biology of the normal pulp, the etiology, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases and injuries of the pulp and associated periradicular conditions.

**endodontist:** A dental specialist who limits his/her practice to treating disease and injuries of the pulp and associated periradicular conditions.

**enteral:** See definition under **anesthesia**.

**entity:** Something that exists as a particular and discrete unit. Persons and corporations are equivalent entities under the law.

**EPSDT:** See **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program**.

**equilibration:** Reshaping of the occlusal surfaces of teeth to create harmonious contact relationships between the upper and lower teeth; also known as occlusal adjustment.

**evulsion:** Separation of the tooth from its socket due to trauma. See **avulsion**.

**excision:** Surgical removal of bone or tissue.

**exfoliative:** Refers to a thin layer of epidermis shed from the surface.

**exostosis:** Overgrowth of bone. See **torus**.

**extraoral:** Outside the oral cavity.

**extracoronaral:** Outside the crown of a tooth.

**extraction:** The process or act of removing a tooth or tooth parts.

**exudate:** A material usually resulting from inflammation or necrosis that contains fluid, cells, and/or other debris.

## F

**facial:** The surface of a tooth directed toward . the cheeks or lips (i.e., the buccal and labial surfaces) and opposite the lingual surface.

**fascial:** Related to a sheet or band of fibrous connective tissue enveloping, separating or binding together muscles, organs and other soft tissue structures of the body.

**filling:** A lay term used for the restoring of lost tooth structure by using materials such as metal, alloy, plastic or porcelain.

**fixed partial denture:** A prosthetic replacement of one or more missing teeth cemented or otherwise attached to the abutment teeth or implant replacements.

**foramen:** Natural opening into or through bone.

**fracture:** The breaking of a part, especially of a bony structure; breaking of a tooth.

**frenum:** Muscle fibers covered by a mucous membrane that attaches the cheek, lips and or tongue to associated dental mucosa.

**furcation:** The anatomic area of a multirrooted tooth where the roots diverge.

## G

**general anesthesia:** See [anesthesia](#).

**genetic test:** Laboratory technique used to determine if a person has a genetic condition or disease or is likely to get the disease.

**gingiva:** Soft tissues overlying the crowns of unerupted teeth and encircling the necks of those that have erupted.

**gingivectomy:** The excision or removal of gingiva.

**gingivitis:** Inflammation of gingival tissue without loss of connective tissue.

**gingivoplasty:** Surgical procedure to reshape gingiva.

**glass ionomer:** Polyelectrolyte cement in which the solid powder phase is a fluoride-containing aluminosilicate glass powder to be mixed with polymeric carboxylic acid. The cement can be used to restore teeth, fill pits and fissures, lute and line cavities. It is also known as glass polyalkenoate cement, ionic polymer cement, polyelectrolyte cement.

**gold foil:** Thin pure gold leaf that is self adhering when condensed into a cavity. One of the oldest restorative techniques, it is compacted or condensed into a retentive cavity form.

**graft:** A piece of tissue or alloplastic material placed in contact with tissue to repair a defect or supplement a deficiency.

**allograft**—Graft of tissue between genetically dissimilar members of the same species. Donors may be cadavers, living related or living unrelated individuals. Also called allogenic graft or homograft.

**autogenous graft**—Taken from one part of a patient's body and transferred to another.

**guided tissue regeneration (GTR):** A surgical procedure that uses a barrier membrane placed under the gingival tissue and over the remaining bone support to enhance regeneration of new bone.

## H

**hemisection:** Surgical separation of a multi-rooted tooth.

**histopathology:** The study of disease processes at the cellular level.

**homologous:** See **graft**.

**hyperplastic:** Pertaining to an abnormal increase in the number of cells in an organ or a tissue with consequent enlargement.

## I

**imaging, diagnostic:** This would include, but is not limited to, CAT scans, MRIs, photographs, radiographs, etc.

**immediate denture:** Prosthesis constructed for placement immediately after removal of remaining natural teeth.

**impacted tooth:** An unerupted or partially erupted tooth that is positioned against another tooth, bone, or soft tissue so that complete eruption is unlikely.

**implant:** Material inserted or grafted into tissue.

**dental implant** – A device specially designed to be placed surgically within or on the mandibular or maxillary bone as a means of providing for dental replacement.

**endosteal (endosseous):** Device placed into the alveolar and basal bone of the mandible or maxilla and transecting only one cortical plate.

**eposteal (subperiosteal):** Subperiosteal implant that conforms to the superior surface of an edentulous area of alveolar bone.

**transosteal (transosseous):** Device with threaded posts penetrating both the superior and inferior cortical bone plates of the mandibular symphysis and exiting through the permucosa. It may be intraoral or extraoral.

**implant index:** See **radiographic/surgical implant index**.

**implantation, tooth:** Placement of an artificial or natural tooth into an alveolus.

**incisal:** Pertaining to the biting edges of the incisor and cuspid teeth.

**incisal angle:** One of the angles formed by the junction of the incisal and the mesial or distal surfaces of an anterior tooth; called the mesioincisal and distoincisal angle respectfully.

**incision and drainage:** The procedure of incising a fluctuant mucosal lesion to allow for the release of fluid from the lesion.

**incisor:** A tooth for cutting or gnawing; located in the front of the mouth in both jaws.

**indigent:** Those individuals whose income falls below the poverty line as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**indirect pulp cap:** Procedure in which the nearly exposed pulp is covered with a protective dressing to protect the pulp from additional injury and to promote healing and repair via formation of secondary dentin.

**indirect restoration:** A restoration fabricated outside the mouth.

**inlay:** An intracoronal dental restoration, made outside the oral cavity to conform to the prepared cavity, which restores some of the occlusal surface of a tooth, but does not restore any cusp tips. It is retained by luting cement. (American College of Prosthodontics; The Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms)

**intentional reimplantation:** The intentional removal, radicular repair and replacement of a tooth into its alveolus.

**International Classification of Diseases (ICD):** Diagnostic codes designed for the classification of morbidity and mortality information for statistical purposes; for the indexing of hospital records by disease and operations; and for data storage and retrieval.

**interproximal:** Between the adjoining surfaces of adjacent teeth in the same arch.

**intracoronal:** Referring to "within" the crown of a tooth.

**intraoral:** Inside the mouth.

## **J**

**jaw:** A common name for either the maxilla or the mandible.

**JP:** Designation of the Universal/National tooth numbering system on the dental claim form.

## **K**

**keratin:** A protein present in all cuticular structures of the body, such as hair, epidermis and horns.

**keratinized gingiva:** The oral surface of the gingiva extending from the mucogingival junction to the gingival margin. In gingival health, the coronal portion of the sulcular epithelium may also be keratinized.

## L

**labial:** Pertaining to or around the lip. See **facial**.

**lamine veneer:** A thin covering of the facial surface of a tooth usually constructed of tooth colored material used to restore discolored, damaged, misshapen or misaligned teeth.

**lesion:** An injury or wound; area of diseased tissue.

**liability:** An obligation to pay an amount in money, goods, or services to another party.

**line angle:** An angle formed by the junction of two planes; used to designate the junction of two surfaces of a tooth, or of two walls of a tooth cavity preparation.

**lingual:** Pertaining to or around the tongue; surface of the tooth directed toward the tongue; opposite of facial.

**local anesthesia:** See definition under **anesthesia**.

**locus:** A site or location.

## M

**maintenance, periodontal:** Therapy for preserving the state of health of the periodontium.

**malar:** Pertaining to the cheek bone; see **zygomatic bone**.

**malignant:** Having the properties of dysplasia, invasion, and metastasis.

**malocclusion:** Improper alignment of biting or chewing surfaces of upper and lower teeth.

**mandible:** The lower jaw.

**Maryland bridge:** Fixed partial denture featuring conservative retainers which are resin bonded to abutments.

**maxilla:** The upper jaw.

**maximum plan benefit** – The reimbursement level determined by the administrator of a dental benefit plan for a specific dental procedure. This may vary widely by geographic region or by benefit plans within a region.

**medicament:** Substance or combination of substances intended to be pharmacologically active, specially prepared to be prescribed, dispensed or administered by authorized personnel to prevent or treat diseases in humans or animals.

**medicament, topical:** Pharmacological substance especially prepared to be applied on tissues of the oral cavity.

**membrane:** See **barrier membrane**.

**mesial:** Nearer the middle line of the body or the surface of a tooth nearer the center of the dental arch.

## **metals, classification of:**

The noble metal classification system has been adopted as a more precise method of reporting various alloys used in dentistry. The alloys are defined on the basis of the percentage of metal content and listed in order of biocompatibility.

**High Noble Alloys**—Noble Metal Content  $\geq 60\%$  (gold + platinum group\*) and gold  $\geq 40\%$  Au)

**Titanium and Titanium Alloys**—Titanium (Ti)  $\geq 85\%$ .

**Noble Alloys**—Noble Metal Content  $\geq 25\%$  (gold + platinum group\*).

**Predominantly Base Alloys**—Noble Metal Content)  $< 25\%$  (gold + platinum group\*).

\*metals of the platinum group are platinum, palladium, rhodium, osmium and ruthenium

**microabrasion:** Mechanical removal of a small amount of tooth structure to eliminate superficial enamel discoloration defects.

**microorganisms:** A minute living organism, such as a bacterium, fungus, yeast, virus or rickettsia.

**molar:** Teeth posterior to the premolars (bicuspid) on either side of the jaw; grinding teeth, having large crowns and broad chewing surfaces.

**moulage:** A positive reproduction of a body part formed on a cast from a negative impression.

**mouthguard:** Individually molded device designed primarily to be worn for the purpose of helping prevent injury to the teeth and their surrounding tissues. Sometimes called a mouth protector.

**mucous membrane:** Lining of the oral cavity as well as other canals and cavities of the body; also called "mucosa."

## **N**

**necessary treatment:** A necessary dental procedure or service as determined by a dentist, to either establish or maintain a patient's oral health. Such determinations are based on the professional diagnostic judgment of the dentist, and the standards of care that prevail in the professional community.

**non-autogenous:** A graft from donor other than patient.

**non-covered charges:** See **covered charges**.

## **O**

**obturate:** With reference to endodontics, refers to the sealing of the canal(s) of tooth roots during root canal therapy procedure with an appropriately prescribed material such as gutta percha in combination with a suitable luting agent.

**obturator:** A disc or plate which closes an opening; a prosthesis that closes an opening in the palate.

**occlusal:** Pertaining to the biting surfaces of the premolar and molar teeth or contacting surfaces of opposing teeth or opposing occlusion rims.

**occlusal radiograph:** An intraoral radiograph made with the film, phosphorous plate, emulsion or digital sensor being held between the occluded teeth.

**occlusal surface:** A surface of a posterior tooth or occlusion rim that is intended to make contact with an opposing occlusal surface. (The Journal of Prosthodontic Dentistry; The Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms; July 2005, page 57)

**occlusion:** Any contact between biting or chewing surfaces of maxillary (upper) and mandibular (lower) teeth.

**odontogenic:** Refers to tooth-forming tissues.

**odontogenic cyst:** See cyst.

**odontoplasty:** Adjustment of tooth length, size, and/or shape; includes removal of enamel projections.

**onlay:** A dental restoration made outside the oral cavity that covers one or more cusp tips and adjoining occlusal surfaces, but not the entire external surface. It is retained by luting cement. (American College of Prosthodontics; The Glossary of Prosthodontic Terms)

**open reduction:** Re-approximation of fractured bony segments accomplished through cutting the adjacent soft tissues and bone to allow direct access.

**operculectomy:** Removal of the operculum.

**operculum:** The flap of tissue over an unerupted or partially erupted tooth.

**oral:** Pertaining to the mouth.

**oral and maxillofacial pathologist:** A dental specialist whose practice is concerned with recognition, diagnosis, investigation and management of diseases of the oral cavity, jaws, and adjacent structures.

**oral and maxillofacial pathology:** Oral pathology is the specialty of dentistry and discipline of pathology that deals with the nature, identification, and management of diseases affecting the oral and maxillofacial regions. It is a science that investigates the causes, processes, and effects of these diseases. The practice of oral pathology includes research and diagnosis of diseases using clinical, radiographic, microscopic, biochemical, or other examinations.

**oral and maxillofacial radiologist:** A dental specialist whose practice is concerned with the production and interpretation of images and data produced by all modalities of radiant energy used for the diagnosis and management of diseases, disorders and conditions of the oral and maxillofacial region.

**oral and maxillofacial radiology:** Oral and maxillofacial radiology is the specialty of dentistry and discipline of radiology concerned with the production and interpretation of images and data produced by all modalities of radiant energy that are used for the diagnosis and management of diseases, disorders and conditions of the oral and maxillofacial region.

**oral and maxillofacial surgeon:** A dental specialist whose practice is limited to the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries, deformities, defects and esthetic aspects of the oral and maxillofacial regions.

**oral and maxillofacial surgery:** Oral and maxillofacial surgery is the specialty of dentistry which includes the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries and defects involving both the functional and esthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region.

**oral diagnosis:** The determination by a dentist of the oral health condition of an individual patient achieved through the evaluation of data gathered by means of history taking, direct examination, patient conference, and such clinical aids and tests as may be necessary in the judgment of the dentist.

**oral health literacy:** The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate oral health decisions.

**orthodontist:** A dental specialist whose practice is limited to the interception and treatment of malocclusion and other neuromuscular and skeletal abnormalities of the teeth and their surrounding structures.

**orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics:** Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics is the dental specialty that includes the diagnosis, prevention, interception, and correction of malocclusion, as well as neuromuscular and skeletal abnormalities of the developing or mature orofacial structures.

**orthognathic:** Functional relationship of maxilla and mandible.

**orthotic device:** Apparatus used to support, align, prevent or correct deformities, or to improve the function of movable parts of the body.

**osteoplasty:** Surgical procedure that modifies the configuration of bone.

**osteotomy:** Surgical cutting of bone.

**overbilling:** The misrepresentation of a fee as higher than actual charges; for example, when a patient is charged one fee and an insurance company is billed a higher fee to benefit the patient's co-payment, or to increase a fee to a patient solely because the patient is covered under a dental benefits plan.

**overcoding:** Reporting a more complex and/or higher cost procedure than was actually performed.

**overdenture:** A removable prosthetic device that overlies and may be supported by retained tooth roots or implants.

## **P**

**palate:** The hard and soft tissues forming the roof of the mouth that separates the oral and nasal cavities.

**palliative:** Action that relieves pain but is not curative.

**panoramic radiograph:** An extraoral projection whereby the entire mandible, maxilla, teeth and other nearby structures are portrayed on a single image, as if the jaws were flattened out.

**papoose board:** A **behavior management** technique utilizing immobilization to control the actions of a patient who is receiving dental treatment.

**parafunctional:** Other than normal function or use.

**parenteral:** See definition under **anesthesia**

**partial denture:** Usually refers to a prosthetic device that replaces missing teeth. See fixed partial denture or removable partial denture.

**participating dentist:** See **contract dentist**.

**patient:** An individual who has established a professional relationship with a dentist for the delivery of dental health care. For matters relating to communication of information and consent this term includes the patient's parent, caretaker, guardian, or other individual as appropriate under state law and the circumstances of the case.

**pediatric dentist:** A dental specialist whose practice is limited to treatment of children from birth through adolescence, providing primary and comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health care; formerly known as a pedodontist.

**pediatric dentistry:** Pediatric Dentistry is an age-defined specialty that provides both primary and comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health care for infants and children through adolescence, including those with special health care needs.

**pedodontist:** See **pediatric dentist**.

**periapical:** The area surrounding the end of the tooth root.

**periapical abscess:** See **abscess**.

**periapical cyst:** See **cyst**.

**periapical radiograph:** A radiograph made by the intraoral placement of film, phosphorous plate, emulsion or digital sensor, for disclosing the apices of the teeth.

**pericoronal:** Around the crown of a tooth.

**periodic oral evaluation:** See **evaluation**.

**periodontal:** Pertaining to the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth.

**periodontal abscess:** See **abscess**.

**periodontal disease:** Inflammatory process of the gingival tissues and/or periodontal membrane of the teeth, resulting in an abnormally deep gingival sulcus, possibly producing periodontal pockets and loss of supporting alveolar bone.

**periodontal pocket:** Pathologically deepened gingival sulcus; a feature of periodontal disease.

**periodontics:** Periodontics is that specialty of dentistry which encompasses the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth or their

substitutes and the maintenance of the health, function and esthetics of these structures and tissues.

**periodontist:** A dental specialist whose practice is limited to the treatment of diseases of the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth.

**periodontitis:** Inflammation and loss of the connective tissue of the supporting or surrounding structure of teeth with loss of attachment.

**periodontium:** tissue complex comprising gingival, cementum, periodontal ligament, and alveolar bone which attaches, nourishes and supports the tooth.

**periradicular:** Surrounding a portion of the root of the tooth.

**permanent dentition:** Refers to the permanent or adult teeth in the dental arch.

**pin:** A small metal rod, cemented or driven into dentin to aid in retention of a restoration.

**plaque:** A soft sticky substance that accumulates on teeth composed largely of bacteria and bacterial derivatives.

**point of service:** A health plan allowing the member to choose to receive a service from a participating or non-participating provider, usually with different benefits levels associated with the use of participating providers.

**pontic:** The term used for an artificial tooth on a fixed partial denture (bridge).

**porcelain/ceramic:** Refers to those non-metal, non-resin inorganic refractory compounds processed at high temperatures (600°C/1112°F and above) and pressed, polished or milled – including porcelains, glasses, and glass-ceramics.

**post:** Rod-like component designed to be inserted into a prepared root canal space so as to provide structural support. This device can either be in the form of an alloy, carbon fiber or fiberglass, and posts are usually secured with appropriate luting agents.

**posterior:** Refers to teeth and tissues towards the back of the mouth (distal to the canines); maxillary and mandibular premolars and molars. The designation of permanent posterior teeth in the **Universal/National tooth numbering system** include teeth 1 through 5 and 12 through 16 (maxillary), and 17 through 21 and 28 through 32 (mandibular); primary teeth in the Universal tooth numbering system are designated A, B, I and J (maxillary), and K, L, S and T (mandibular).

**post-treatment review:** See **audit**.

**precision attachment:** Interlocking device, having a male component integrated into a removable prosthesis that fits precisely into a female component embedded in the body of abutment teeth or implant abutments, to stabilize or retain the prosthesis when it is seated in the mouth.

**predetermination:** A process where a dentist submits a treatment plan to the payer before treatment begins. The payer reviews the treatment plan and notifies the dentist and patient of one or more of the following: patient's eligibility, covered services, amounts payable, co-payment and deductibles and plan maximums.

**pre-existing condition:** Oral health condition of an enrollee which existed before his/her enrollment in a dental program.

**premedication:** The use of medications prior to dental procedures.

**premolar:** See bicuspid.

**preventive dentistry:** Aspects of dentistry concerned with promoting good oral health and function by preventing or reducing the onset and/or development of oral diseases or deformities and the occurrence of oro-facial injuries.

**primary dentition:** The first set of teeth; see deciduous.

**primary payer:** The third party payer determined to have initial responsibility in a benefit determination.

**prior authorisation:** See predetermination.

**proof of loss:** Verification of services rendered or expenses incurred by the submission of claim forms, radiographs, study models, and/or other diagnostic material. Documentary evidence required by a payer to prove a valid claim exists. It usually consists of a claim form completed by the patient's treating dentist.

**prophylaxis:** Removal of plaque, calculus and stains from the tooth structures. It is intended to control local irritational factors.

**prospective review:** Prior assessment by a payer or payer's agent that proposed services are appropriate for a particular patient, and/or the patient and the category of service are covered by a benefit plan. See preauthorization, precertification, predetermination, second-opinion program.

**prosthesis:** Artificial replacement of any part of the body.

**definitive prosthesis**—Prosthesis to be used over an extended period of time.

**dental prosthesis**—Any device or appliance replacing one or more missing teeth and/or, if required, associated structures. (This is a broad term which includes abutment crowns and abutment inlays/onlays, bridges, dentures, obturators, gingival prostheses.)

**fixed prosthesis**—Non-removable dental prosthesis which is solidly attached to abutment teeth, roots or implants.

**fixed-removable prosthesis**—Combined prosthesis, one or more parts of which are fixed, and the other(s) attached by devices which allow their detachment, removal and reinsertion by the dentist only.

**interim prosthesis**—A provisional prosthesis designed for use over a limited period of time, after which it is to be replaced by a more definitive restoration.

**removable prosthesis**—Complete or partial prosthesis, which after an initial fitting by a dentist, can be removed and reinserted by the patient.

**prosthodontics:** Prosthodontics is the dental specialty pertaining to the diagnosis, treatment planning, rehabilitation and maintenance of the oral function, comfort, appearance and health of patients with clinical conditions associated with missing or deficient teeth and/or oral and maxillofacial tissues using biocompatible substitutes.

**prosthodontist:** A dental specialist whose practice is limited to the restoration of the natural teeth and/or the replacement of missing teeth with artificial substitutes.

**provisional:** Formed or preformed for temporary purposes or used over a limited period; a temporary or interim solution; usually refers to a prosthesis or individual tooth restoration.

**pulp:** Connective tissue that contains blood vessels and nerve tissue which occupies the pulp cavity of a tooth.

**pulp cap:** See **direct pulp cap**; **indirect pulp cap**.

**pulp cavity:** The space within a tooth which contains the pulp.

**pulpectomy:** Complete removal of vital and non-vital pulp tissue from the root canal space.

**pulpitis:** Inflammation of the dental pulp.

**pulpotomy:** Removal of a portion of the pulp, including the diseased aspect, with the intent of maintaining the vitality of the remaining pulpal tissue by means of a therapeutic dressing.

## Q

**quadrant:** One of the four equal sections into which the dental arches can be divided; begins at the midline of the arch and extends distally to the last tooth.

## R

**radicular:** Pertaining to the root.

**radiographic/surgical implant index:** An appliance, designed to relate osteotomy or fixture position to existing anatomic structures.

**radiograph:** An image or picture produced on a radiation sensitive film, phosphorous plate, emulsion or digital sensor by exposure to ionizing radiation.

**rebase:** Process of refitting a denture by replacing the base material.

**recalcification:** Procedure used to encourage biologic root repair of external and internal resorption defects. See **apexification**.

**reimplantation, tooth:** The return of a tooth to its alveolus.

**reline:** Process of resurfacing the tissue side of a removable prosthesis with new base material.

**removable partial denture:** A removable partial denture is a prosthetic replacement of one or more missing teeth that can be removed by the patient.

**resin, acrylic:** Resinous material of the various esters of acrylic acid, used as a denture base material, for trays or for other restorations.

**resin-based composite:** See **composite**.

**resin infiltration:** Application of a resin material engineered to penetrate and fill the sub-surface pore system of an incipient caries lesion to strengthen, stabilize, and limit the lesion's progression, as well as mask visible white spots.

**retainer:**

**orthodontic retainer**—Appliance to stabilize teeth following orthodontic treatment.

**prosthodontic retainer**—A part of a prosthesis that attaches a restoration to the abutment tooth, implant abutment, or implant.

**retrograde filling**: A method of sealing the root canal by preparing and filling it from the root apex.

**retrospective review**: A post-treatment assessment of services on a case-by-case or aggregate basis after the services have been performed.

**revision**: The act of revising; second or more surgical procedure for correction of a condition.

**root**: The anatomic portion of the tooth that is covered by cementum and is located in the alveolus (socket) where it is attached by the periodontal apparatus; radicular portion of tooth.

**residual root**—Remaining root structure following the loss of the major portion (over 75%) of the crown.

**root canal**: The portion of the pulp cavity inside the root of a tooth; the chamber within the root of the tooth that contains the pulp.

**root canal therapy**: The treatment of disease and injuries of the pulp and associated periradicular conditions.

**root planing**: A definitive treatment procedure designed to remove cementum and/or dentin that is rough, may be permeated by calculus, or contaminated with toxins or microorganisms.

**rubber dam**: A barrier technique used to prevent the passage of saliva or moisture, or to provide an isolated operative field.

## S

**salivary gland**: Exocrine glands that produce saliva and empty it into the mouth; these include the parotid glands, the submandibular glands and the sublingual glands.

**scaling**: Removal of plaque, calculus, and stain from teeth.

**sealant**: A resinous material designed to be applied to the occlusal surfaces of posterior teeth to prevent occlusal caries.

**sedative filling**: A temporary restoration intended to relieve pain.

**semi-precision attachment**: A device, one component of which is fixed to an abutment or abutments and the other is integrated into a fixed or removable prosthesis in order to stabilize and/or retain it.

**sextant**: One of the six relatively equal sections into which a dental arch can be divided, for example: tooth numbers 1-5; 6-11; 12-16; 17-21; 22-27; 28-32. Sometimes used for recording periodontal charting.

**sialodochoplasty**: Surgical procedure for the repair of a defect and/or restoration of portion of a salivary gland duct.

**sialography**: Inspection of the salivary ducts and glands by radiograph after the injection of a radiopaque medium.

**sialolithotomy:** Surgical procedure by which a stone within a salivary gland or its duct is removed, either intraorally or extraorally.

**site:** A term used to describe a single area, position, or locus. For periodontal procedures, an area of soft tissue recession on a single tooth or an osseous defect adjacent to a single tooth; also used to indicate soft tissue defects and/or osseous defects in edentulous tooth positions.

**space maintainer:** A passive appliance, usually cemented in place, that holds teeth in position.

**splint:** A device used to support, protect, or immobilize oral structures that have been loosened, replanted, fractured or traumatized. Also refers to devices used in the treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders.

**statistically-based utilisation review:** A system that examines the distribution of treatment procedures based on claims information. In order to be reasonably reliable, the application of such claims analyses of specific dentists should include data on type of practice, dentist's experience, socioeconomic characteristics, and geographic location.

**stomatitis:** Inflammation of the membranes of the mouth.

**stress breaker:** That part of a tooth-borne and/or tissue-borne prosthesis designed to relieve the abutment teeth and their supporting tissues from harmful stresses.

**study model:** Plaster or stone model of teeth and adjoining tissues; also referred to as diagnostic cast. See **diagnostic cast**.

**succedaneous tooth:** A permanent tooth that replaces a primary (deciduous) tooth.

**summary plan description:** See **benefit plan summary**.

**supernumerary teeth:** Extra erupted or unerupted teeth that resemble teeth of normal shape.

**suture:** Stitch used to repair incision or wound.

## T

**temporary removable denture:** An interim prosthesis designed for use over limited period of time.

**temporomandibular (TMJ):** The connecting hinge mechanism between the base of the skull (temporal bone) and the lower jaw (mandible).

**temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMD or TMJD):** Abnormal functioning of temporomandibular joint; also refers to symptoms arising in other areas secondary to the dysfunction.

**therapeutic:** Of or pertaining to therapy or treatment; beneficial. Therapy has as its goal the elimination or control of a disease or other abnormal state.

**tissue conditioning:** Material intended to be placed in contact with tissues, for a limited period, with the aim of assisting the return to a healthy condition.

**tomography:** An X-ray technique that produces an image representing a detailed cross section of tissue structures at a predetermined depth.

**tooth bounded space:** A space created by one or more missing teeth that has a tooth on each side.

**torus:** A bony elevation or protuberance of bone. See **exostosis**.

**tracheotomy:** A surgical procedure to create an opening in the trachea (windpipe) to aid in breathing.

**transitional:** Relating to a passage or change from one position, state, phase or concept to another.

**transitional dentition:** Refers to a mixed dentition; begins with the appearance of the permanent first molars and ends with the exfoliation of the deciduous teeth.

**transplantation:** Surgical placement of biological material from one site to another.

**transplantation of tooth:** Transfer of a tooth from one socket to another, either in the same or a different person.

**transseptal:** Through or across a septum.

**treatment plan:** The sequential guide for the patient's care as determined by the dentist's diagnosis and is used by the dentist for the restoration to and/or maintenance of optimal oral health.

**trismus:** Restricted ability to open the mouth, usually due to inflammation or fibrosis of the muscles of mastication.

**tuberosity:** A protuberance on a bone.

## U

**unbundling of procedures:** The separating of a dental procedure into component parts with each part having a charge so that the cumulative charge of the components is greater than the total charge to patients who are not beneficiaries of a dental benefit plan for the same procedure.

**unerupted:** Tooth/teeth that have not penetrated into the oral cavity.

**unilateral:** One-sided; pertaining to or affecting but one side.

**Universal/National tooth numbering system:** A system that assigns a unique number (from 1-32) to permanent teeth, and a unique letter (A-T) for primary teeth.

**utilisation:** The extent to which the members of a covered group use a program over a stated period of time; specifically measured as a percentage determined by dividing the number of covered individuals who submitted one or more claims by the total number of covered individuals. Also, an expression of the number and types of services used by the members of a covered group over a specified period of time.

**utilisation management:** A set of techniques used by or on behalf of purchasers of health care benefits to manage the cost of health care prior to its provision by influencing patient care decision-making through case-by-case assessments of the appropriateness of care based on accepted dental practices.

**utilisation review, statistically based:** A system that examines the distribution of treatment procedures based on claims information and in order to be reasonably reliable, the application of such claims analyses of specific dentists should include data on type of practice, dentist's experience, socioeconomic characteristics, and geographic location.

## V

**veneer:** See lamine veneer.

**vertical bitewing:** A dental image with a central projection on which the teeth can close, holding it in a vertical position for the radiographic examination of several upper and lower teeth simultaneously.

**vertical dimension:** The vertical height of the face with the teeth in occlusion or acting as stops.

**vestibuloplasty:** Any of a series of surgical procedures designed to increase relative alveolar ridge height.

**viral culture:** A collection of specimen for the purpose of incubating a virus for identification.

## W

**waiting period:** The period between employment or enrollment in a dental program and the date when a covered person becomes eligible for a given benefit.

**wax pattern:** A wax form that is the positive likeness of an object to be fabricated.

**worker's compensation:** A benefit paid to an employee who suffers a work-related injury or illness.

## X

**xerostomia:** Decreased salivary secretion that produces a dry and sometimes burning sensation of the oral mucosa and/or cervical caries.

**x-ray:** See radiograph.

## Y

**yeast:** A general term for a fungus occurring as a unicellular, nucleated organism that usually reproduces by budding. Some yeasts may reproduce by fission, many producing mycelia or pseudomycelia.

## Z

**zygomatic bone:** Quadrangular bone on either side of face that forms the cheek prominence. See malar.

