

## May 2010

### Save Money with the Discounts for Dentist program!

You can receive discounts from the following vendors!

- American Heart Association
- Bishop & Company
- First Date/ Telecheck
- Guardian Capital Management
- Hawaiian Airlines
- Kuakini Medical and Dental Federal Credit Union
- Oceanic Time Warner Cable Business Class
- PDC
- Profitability of Hawaii
- RICOH Business Solutions
- Sonicare
- SuperThreads

Log on to HDS Online to download a copy of the packet or call Professional Relations to request a packet.

#### Eligibility and Claims:

Customer Service  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Oahu: 529-9248 or  
(800) 232-2533 ext.248

#### All Other Inquiries:

Professional Relations  
Ph: (808) 529-9222 or  
(800) 232-2533 ext.222



## 47th HDS Annual Meeting Dentists Receive Free Gift for Attending!

Please join us at the HDS Annual Meeting of the Members to be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at noon at the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom. Participating dentists will receive a special HDS gift for attending the meeting.

The lunch meeting will feature reports from HDS Chairman T. Kimo Blaisdell and President Faye Kurren. An election will be held to fill two dentist director positions and two public director positions. For more information and to register for the meeting, log-on to HDS Online or contact Professional Relations.

**Register Today!**

## Recredentialing Process To Begin Next Month

In accordance with Delta Dental Plans Association and HDS requirements, all HDS participating dentists must periodically provide credentialing information to HDS. HDS will soon be mailing a one-page HDS Credentialing Questionnaire to all participating dentists. Please return the completed form to Professional Relations by June 9, 2010.

## Benefit Estimator – Helps With Treatment Planning

The Benefit Estimator is a handy HDS Online tool to help you assist your patients in evaluating a treatment plan in relation to their out-of-pocket costs. It's perfect for patients who want to compare the price difference between a gold crown versus a porcelain crown, or amalgam versus composite fillings.

The Benefit Estimator provides a quick estimate of HDS benefits based on your patient's benefit information such as plan maximums, deductibles, wait periods, benefit percentages, frequency and age limitations.

Please note that the information you receive is an estimate of the costs of the procedure and does not guarantee payment. You can convert a benefit estimate to a preauthorization for an official approval.

## Consultant's Corner: Pulp Cap Primer

**Robert G. Sherman, DMD**  
**HDS Dental Director**



To help dental offices understand pulp cap codes when restoring vital teeth with carious lesions, here are three scenarios to help determine the proper clinical indication, coding and submission requirements for these procedures. A properly oriented and dated X-ray image is necessary when submitting for HDS benefit. While not required, a short concise narrative describing the clinical situation may be helpful in some cases. For complete benefit guidelines, refer to the 2010 HDS Procedure Code Guidelines manual.

**D3110 pulp cap-direct (excluding final restoration):** *CDT 2009/2010 states "Procedure in which the **exposed** pulp is covered with a dressing or cement that protects the pulp and promotes healing and repair."*

For benefit purposes, a pulp exposure with active **bleeding** must be encountered. The bleeding is arrested and then covered with calcium hydroxide, MTA or other suitable material to stimulate secondary dentin formation. This may be followed by the application of an additional liner or base and filled with a bonded composite or amalgam restoration.

**D3120 pulp cap-indirect (excluding final restoration):** *CDT 2009/2010 states, "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. **This code is not to be used for bases and liners when all caries has been removed.**"*

An indirect pulp cap involves leaving a layer of demineralized dentin over the pulp chamber on a vital tooth. Further excavation of the lesion would result in pulpal exposure. Calcium hydroxide, MTA, or other suitable material designed to stimulate secondary dentin is placed over the remaining demineralized dentin followed by a bonded composite or amalgam restoration.

### Coding Scenarios

**Scenario A:** A scheduled patient presented with decay and cold sensitivity on tooth #19. A periapical X-ray of #19 is negative for periapical pathology. The clinical diagnosis was reversible pulpitis secondary to caries. Excavation of decay was immediately performed and all caries was successfully removed with no exposure. Calcium hydroxide and *Vitrebond*™ were placed followed by an MO bonded posterior composite.

#### **Appropriate codes:**

**D2392** - resin based composite-two surfaces, posterior  
**D0220** - intraoral periapical first film

**CDT 2009 Note:** In this patient, all caries was removed and calcium hydroxide and glass ionomer liners were placed. The indirect pulp cap code D3120 is not indicated in this scenario.

**Scenario B:** A scheduled patient complained of intermittent mild pain and reversible cold sensitivity on tooth #12 for several weeks. A deep carious lesion in close proximity to the pulp with no obvious periradicular radiolucency was noted on a periapical X-ray image. The clinical diagnosis was reversible pulpitis secondary to deep caries. A small mechanical exposure with bleeding was noted during caries excavation. The bleeding was controlled and calcium hydroxide and a glass ionomer applied over the exposure. The tooth was then restored with an MOD bonded composite restoration and monitored periodically.

#### **Appropriate codes:**

**D3110** - pulp cap-direct (excluding final restoration)  
**D2393** - resin based composite-three surfaces, posterior  
**D0220** - intraoral periapical first film

### **Ask HDS**

If you would like to submit a question, please e-mail [askhds@hdsonline.org](mailto:askhds@hdsonline.org).

**Q: I've upgraded my Internet Explorer browser to version 8 and now I'm not able to "paste" my scanned attachment to my online claim?**

**A:** A solution to this problem is available at HDS Online under the Announcements/Tips/Tools section, "HDS Online Technical Issues."

**Q: My employee will no longer be employed at my office. How do I terminate his/her access to HDS Online and DenTel?**

**A:** Download a copy of the Claim Submission and Signature on File Authorization Form at [www.hdsonline.org](http://www.hdsonline.org) and fax the completed form to Professional Relations at 529-9368 or toll-free at (866) 376-3500.

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### **Retired Dentist**

**Raymond C.K. Chun, DDS**  
Honolulu, Oahu

### **Continued - Pulp Cap Primer**

**Scenario C:** A scheduled 14-year-old patient reported occasional cold sensitivity and throbbing pain in tooth #3 for one month. Deep decay with no periradicular radiolucency was noted on a periapical image and a diagnosis of reversible pulpitis was established. A small layer of demineralized dentin was left as further excavation would result in a direct exposure and pulpal bleeding. Calcium hydroxide and glass ionomer were placed over the carious dentin and the tooth was then restored with a bonded DOB amalgam.

**Appropriate codes:** **D3120** - pulp cap-indirect (excluding final restoration), **D0220** - intraoral periapical first film, **D2160** - amalgam- three surfaces, primary or permanent.

**Continued**