

The Department of Vermont Health Access Clinical Criteria

Subject: Dental Cone beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) Scans
Last Review: June 25, 2024*
Past Revisions: N/A

***Please note: Most current content changes will be highlighted in yellow.**

Description of Service or Procedure

Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) imaging should be used only after a review of the patient's health and imaging history and after a complete examination of the patient. The benefits of using CBCT should outweigh the risks. CBCT images should not be used for screening purposes. Additional considerations should also be made for children, who are more sensitive to ionizing radiation. CBCT should be used only when the practitioner believes that the diagnostic yield will benefit patient care, enhance safety, and improve clinical outcomes. CBCT should also be used as an adjunct to standard modalities. However, it may replace conventional 2D imaging (cephalometric and panoramic images) when appropriate and when structures of interest may not be captured in those conventional images.

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule or Health Care Administrative Rules that pertain to the member's aid category. Prior Authorization (PA) is only valid if the member is eligible for the applicable item or service on the date of service.

Medicaid Rule

Medicaid and Health Care Administrative Rules can be found at <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar/adopted-rules>

- 4.101 Medical Necessity for Covered Services
- 4.106 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services



Coverage Position

Dental CBCT Scans may be covered for members:

- When the service is prescribed by a licensed medical provider, enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program, operating within their scope of practice as described on the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation's website*, Statute, or rule who is knowledgeable regarding Dental CBCT Scans, and who provides medical care to the member AND
- When the clinical criteria below are met.

* Vermont's Office of Professional Regulation's website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

Coverage Criteria

Dental CBCT Scans may be covered for members when:

- When the anatomic information to be obtained is significantly superior to other conventional imaging techniques.
- When radiation exposure has been considered and appropriate measures have been taken to limit the dose and field.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT): Vermont Medicaid will provide comprehensive services and furnish all Medicaid coverable, appropriate, and medically necessary services needed to correct and ameliorate health conditions for Medicaid members under age 21.

Please note, Vermont Medicaid Clinical Criteria is reviewed based on available literature, evidence-based guidelines/standards, Medicaid rule and policy, and Medicare coverage determinations that may be appropriate to incorporate when applicable.

Type of service or procedure not covered (this list may not be all inclusive)

- CBCT scans will not be covered by DVHA when the reason for the scan is to plan or facilitate treatments that are not themselves covered by Vermont Medicaid. For example: placement of dental implants.
- CBCT scans as a component of routine new patient or recall radiographic examinations.

Coding guidelines

Please see the Medicaid Portal at <http://vtmedicaid.com/#/feeSchedule> for fee schedules, code coverage, and applicable requirements.

References

Benavides, E., Krecioch, J. R., Connolly, R. T., Allareddy, T., Buchanan, A., Spelic, D., O'Brien, K. K., Keels, M. A., Mascarenhas, A. K., Duong, M.-L., Aerne-Bowe, M. J., Ziegler, K. M., & Lipman, R. D. (2024). Optimizing radiation safety in dentistry: Clinical recommendations and regulatory considerations. *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, 155(4).
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adaj.2023.12.002>

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2017.). *Early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment*. Medicaid.gov. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/epsdt/index.html>

This document has been classified as public information.