

This guide is published to educate dentists and others in the dental community on this procedure and its code, published in the current *CDT Coding* manual.

Introduction

The full entry for this CDT code as published in the *CDT* manual follow –

D1354 application of caries arresting medicament – per tooth

Conservative treatment of an active, non-symptomatic carious lesion by topical application of a caries arresting or inhibiting medicament and without mechanical removal of sound tooth structure.

The following Questions and Answers are intended to provide readers with insight and understanding of the procedure, medicaments used, and appropriate documentation in patient records and on claims.

Questions and Answers

1. Is this code principally for reporting the application of Silver Diamine Fluoride?

No – D1354's CDT Code entry describes a discrete procedure for delivery "of a caries arresting or inhibiting medicament." The dentist providing this service would determine the appropriate medicament to be applied, and the choice is not limited to Silver Diamine Fluoride.

2. Is the procedure reported with this code limited to primary teeth?

No – There are no words in either the nomenclature or descriptor that limits the procedure to primary dentition only.

3. Is the procedure reported by number of lesions treated, or by tooth treated?

CDT code D1354 is a "per tooth" procedure. The specific teeth treated on the date of service must be documented. Charting and recording of treated teeth are part of the patient's dental record, which should also include information on the number and location of lesions that the medicament was applied to.

4. What is the reason for reporting this procedure by tooth number?

The code D1354 nomenclature mirrors the nomenclature of other procedures listed under the CDT Codes "Other Preventive Services" category: D1351 sealant – per tooth; and D1353 sealant repair – per tooth.

It is important to report D1354 as a per tooth procedure to track individual tooth outcomes and follow-up procedures in the patient record. Some treated teeth may require reapplication at determined intervals, some will be followed to exfoliation, and others will eventually receive definitive restorative care as individual patient circumstances dictate.

5. How often may the D1354 procedure be delivered to the same tooth?

Reapplication may be required when the dentist determines that there is a clinical need. The CDT code entry does not address application protocols.

6. Does the D1354 procedure preclude a subsequent restorative procedure at a future visit?

A subsequent restorative procedure may be needed at a future visit after application of a caries arresting medicament, which is determined by the dentist. Caries is a disease that is treated with the medicament. The lesion in the tooth resulting from the disease (i.e., the cavity) may need a subsequent restoration to restore function.

7. Must there be a specific interval between the D1354 procedure and a restorative procedure on the same tooth?

No – The clinical condition of a patient's tooth is affected by a variety of factors and can change over time. The patient's dentist is in the best position to evaluate the need for restorative services.

8. Does "without mechanical removal of sound tooth structure" in the D1354 descriptor mean that this procedure is for reporting Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) therapy?

No – ART therapy was not cited in the action request for this CDT Code addition, nor was it brought up during the Code Maintenance Committee's discussion before its vote to accept the action request. The D1354 descriptor does not cite ART when defining the procedure.

9. May other preventive procedures be delivered to the tooth on the same date of service, along with code D1354 treatment?

Yes – Other preventive procedures may be delivered as there is no such exclusionary language in D1354's nomenclature or descriptor. Individual circumstances would affect the order in which preventive services are delivered (e.g., prophylaxis before medicament application).

10. May a hygienist or other dental professional deliver code D1354 procedure?

The CDT Code only provides a means to document procedures delivered. Applicable state laws and regulations concerning professional licensure, scope of practice, supervision, etc., determine the ability of an individual practitioner (e.g., hygienists) to deliver and report any dental procedure listed in the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (CDT Code). Scope of licensure questions are best answered by an inquiry to the applicable local regulatory or professional licensure authority.

11. Are there any other medicament delivery procedures that this code would be used to report?

No – D1354's CDT Code entry describes a discrete procedure for delivery "of a caries arresting or inhibiting medicament..." Any other medicament delivery procedure would be reported by its own CDT Code (e.g., D9910 application of desensitizing medicament); or with an "unspecified, by report" (aka "999") code.

12. How would code D1354 be reported on a claim?

D1354 is reported on the claim detail line. Each claim detail line identifies the particular procedure, the date it was delivered to the patient, and tooth number or numbers involved. If more than one tooth is treated on the same date of service, the procedure may be reported:

- On one service line that also lists the tooth numbers (or letters) involved in the appropriate field, and the total number of teeth (i.e., Quantity) in the appropriate field.
- On multiple service lines, one per tooth treated, listing the tooth number or letter and a Quantity of 1 in the appropriate fields on the service line.

Note: To avoid claim processing delays or inaccuracies, contact the dental benefit plan that will be adjudicating the claim to determine if code D1354 should be reported on separate claim service line Procedure Code fields when multiple separate teeth are involved or if it should be reported on a single line with the amount reported in the Quantity field.

Questions or Assistance?

Call 800-621-8099 or send an email to dentalcode@ada.org.