

The ADA's position is that when coding for removal of impacted teeth the selection of either code D7230 or D7240 is dependent on the definition of an "anatomical crown".

The full entries for these codes, as published in the current *CDT Manual*, are:

D7230 removal of impacted tooth – partially bony

Part of crown covered by bone; requires mucoperiosteal flap elevation and bone removal.

D7240 removal of impacted tooth – completely bony

Most or all of crown covered by bone; requires mucoperiosteal flap elevation and bone removal.

An "anatomical crown" as defined by the [ADA's Glossary of Dental Clinical and Administrative Terms](#) is as follows:

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

Given this definition, the "crown" referenced in these codes' descriptors is the portion of the tooth above the cemento-enamel junction. It follows that "part of the crown" should be interpreted as "less than 50% of the entire crown" and "most or all of the crown" should be interpreted as "at least or more than 50% of the entire crown".

An interpretation that that some portion of the occlusal surface must reside below the bone in order for D7240 to apply is an incorrect interpretation.

The treating dentist is the individual who, using her or his clinical training and experience, determines the services to be delivered. At the time of delivery the dentist would determine, using the full CDT Code entry (i.e., the nomenclature and descriptor), which code is appropriate for documenting the procedure.

The dentist who removes an impacted tooth or teeth would consider this guidance and the full CDT Code entries when determining, which code (D7230 or D7240) appropriately describes the extraction procedure she or he delivered.

Please note that: Each dental benefit plan determines their own individual claim adjudication criteria or policies. The dental benefit plan coverage determines the guidelines, policies and exclusions. Any questions concerning third-party payer's claim adjudication criteria are addressed by contacting the insurance companies involved.

Questions or Assistance?

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

Notes:

- This document includes content from the ADA publication – *Current Dental Terminology (CDT)*.