

Guide to Coding Anterior Tooth Restorations – Surfaces and the Incisal Angle

Introduction

There are four CDT codes published in the CDT 2023 Manual that address surface restorations involving anterior teeth. Three (D2330 – D2332) have nomenclatures that are explicit, specifying the exact number of surfaces involved in the restoration. D2355 is different in that its nomenclature is more broadly worded, and is the only anterior surface restoration code with a descriptor –

D2335 resin-based composite – four or more surfaces or involving incisal angle (anterior)

Incisal angle to be defined as one of the angles formed by the junction of the incisal and the mesial or distal surface of an anterior tooth.

Mention of the incisal angle in D2335's nomenclature and descriptor has caused confusion within the dental community as the incisal angle is not a tooth surface. A restoration that involves the incisal angle may involve less than four surfaces.

Coding Guidance

- 1) The Incisal surface of an anterior tooth is analogous to the Occlusal surface of a posterior tooth for documentation and reporting purposes.
- 2) An incisal angle restoration will include multiple surfaces. However the size of the affected area and the anatomy of the tooth will dictate the number of surfaces involved in the restoration. For example:

A small fracture involving the angle could be perceived clinically as two surface restoration (e.g., M-I; D-I). A larger fracture involving the angle that requires restoring a greater portion of the tooth would require a multi-surface restoration (e.g., M-I-F-L; D-I-F-L).

- 3) The clinician determines which tooth surfaces are involved in a restoration that involves the incisal angle of the individual patient's anterior tooth.
- 4) All anterior restorative procedures that involve the incisal angle are reported with D2335; the number of surfaces involved is not relevant for reporting the procedure on a claim.

A number of Questions and Answers follow. These are intended to provide readers with insight and understanding of the procedure and appropriate documentation in patient records and on claims.

Questions and Answers

1. What is the ADA Glossary of Dental Clinical Terms definition of Incisal Angle?

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.

2. Would it be appropriate to report a restoration involving the incisal angle if the surfaces involved were the Mesial, Incisal and Lingual, as a **D2332 resin-based composite – three surfaces, anterior** restoration?

No. The fact that this three surface restoration involved two (mesial and incisal) that conform to the glossary's definition of incisal angle, means that D2335 is the appropriate code.

- 3) What should I document in the patient's dental record if the restoration that involves the incisal angle also involves less than four surfaces of the anterior tooth.

The patient's record should document reporting D2335 **and** the surfaces involved, with an explanatory note that the CDT code reported was appropriate for the date of service.

- 4) Is there a code and place for reporting incisal angle on the ADA Dental Claim form and the HIPAA standard electronic dental claim transaction (837D)?

No. Incisal Angle is not a data element on either submission format. The only part of a tooth's anatomy reported is tooth surface, using the appropriate single letter code from the following list. This list is published in the CDT manual (under Explanation of Restorations) and the ADA Claim Form Completion Instructions ([General Instructions \(ada.org\)](https://www.ada.org)).

Surface	Code
Buccal	B
Distal	D
Facial (or Labial)	F
Incisal	I
Lingual	L
Mesial	M
Occlusal	O

Questions or Assistance?

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

Notes:

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