

This guide is published to educate dentists and others in the dental community on this procedure and its code.

Introduction

The current full entry as published in *CDT* manual follow:

D4355 full mouth debridement to enable a comprehensive periodontal evaluation and diagnosis on a subsequent visit

Questions and Answers

1. How can I justify reporting code D0140 as the evaluation that led to delivery of D4355 – isn't D0140 for emergency visits?

This is a continuing misperception. The “D0140 limited oral evaluation – problem focused” descriptor’s first sentence says this type of evaluation is “...limited to a specific oral health problem or complaint.” The patient’s complaint could be pain or bleeding gums, which could be caused by the accumulation of plaque or calculus. Hence the need for a full mouth debridement, a definitive procedure that, as code D0140 descriptor says “...may be required on the same date...”

2. May I report either comprehensive (D0150) or periodic (D0120) oral evaluation procedure delivered on the same date of service as a D4355 procedure?

Yes. With the code D4355 nomenclature above either a comprehensive or a periodic oral evaluation can be reported on the same date of service as the D4355 if all the components noted in the D0150 or D0120 descriptors have been accomplished.

Note: “**D0180 comprehensive periodontal evaluation – new or established patient**” is a procedure that may only be delivered and reported on a subsequent date of service, not on the same date as delivery of a full mouth debridement (D4355) procedure.

3. My patient is scheduled for the full mouth debridement procedure on the first of the month and a comprehensive periodontal evaluation two weeks later. The debridement procedure is delivered, but the patient decides not to return for the comprehensive periodontal evaluation. How does this affect reporting the D4355 procedure delivered?

Reporting code D4355 is correct as this service was delivered with the expectation that the patient would comply with the treatment plan and return on a later date for the comprehensive periodontal evaluation.

4. The code D4355 nomenclature does not specify the procedure code for reporting the “comprehensive periodontal evaluation and diagnosis on a subsequent visit.” Am I correct in assuming that code “D0180 comprehensive oral evaluation – new or established patient” is the only procedure and code appropriate for the subsequent visit?

No. A dentist’s selection of the oral evaluation code to report is guided by the descriptor and the scope of the service delivered. For example:

Keywords in the D0180 code descriptor are “It includes evaluation of periodontal conditions, probing and charting, an evaluation for oral cancer, the evaluation and recording of the patient’s dental and medical history and general health assessment...it may include the evaluation and recording of dental caries, missing or unerupted teeth, restorations, and occlusal relationships”.

Keywords in the D0150 code descriptor are “This includes an evaluation for oral cancer, the evaluation and recording of the patient’s dental and medical history and a general health assessment...It may include the evaluation and recording of dental caries, missing or unerupted teeth, restorations, existing prostheses, occlusal relationships, periodontal conditions (including periodontal screening and/or charting) ...”

Questions or Assistance?

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