

**Delta Dental of Virginia Clinical Policy # 600**
**Subject**

Placement of Fixed Partial Dentures

**Originating Department**

Clinical Professional Services

**Signature Authority**

Dental Director

**Type:**       New                       Replacement                       Revision                       Clarification

**Date:**              11/09/2009                      **Revision Date:**              11/15/2011

**Preamble:**

The Clinical Policy Bulletin is an expression of Delta Dental of Virginia's (DDVA) determination regarding whether certain services or supplies are medically or dentally necessary. DDVA bases its conclusions on a review of currently available clinical literature. This includes, but is not limited to, clinical outcome studies published in the peer-reviewed medical and dental literature, regulatory status of the technology, evidence-based guidelines of public health and health research agencies, evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations, views of physicians and dentists practicing in relevant clinical areas, and other relevant factors. DDVA reserves the right to revise these policies as new clinical information is available and we welcome submission of further relevant information.

A group may define covered dental services under their dental plan, as well as those services that may be subject to dollar caps or other limits. The plan documents outline covered benefits, exclusions and limitations. DDVA advises dentists and enrollees to consult the plan documents to determine if there are exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to the service request. The conclusion that a particular service is medically or dentally necessary does not constitute an indication or warranty that the service requested is a covered benefit payable by DDVA. Some plans exclude coverage for services that DDVA considers either medically or dentally necessary. When there is a discrepancy between DDVA's clinical policy and the group's plan documents, DDVA is to defer to the group's plan documents as to whether the dental service is a covered benefit. In addition, if state or federal regulations mandate coverage then DDVA will adhere to the applicable regulatory requirement.

**History:**

A fixed partial denture, or fixed bridge, is an appliance utilized for replacement of missing permanent teeth held in position by attachments to adjacent prepared natural teeth, roots or dental implants. The device consists of abutment crowns, which anchor the prosthesis, and pontic (false) teeth, which replace the missing teeth. A fixed partial denture is permanently cemented to healthy teeth, adequate residual roots, or dental implants on either side of the edentulous, or toothless, space.

A cantilever fixed partial denture is often used when a single anterior tooth is missing, or in the absence of posterior teeth to anchor a fixed prosthesis. Dependent upon the tooth being replaced, this type of prosthesis utilizes one or more abutment teeth on one side of an edentulous space as the anchorage for a single pontic.

In posterior teeth with less than extensive loss of tooth structure, inlays or onlays may be used as anchorage abutment restorations in place of full crowns. Additionally, a fixed partial denture may utilize, as abutments, cast retainers which are resin bonded to the lingual surfaces of the anchoring teeth.

<b>Policy:</b>	<p>DDVA Guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The prognosis of abutment teeth must be considered. Placement of crowns on abutment teeth with uncontrolled or untreated periodontal disease or on teeth with unresolved periradicular pathology which lends those teeth a compromised prognosis is not appropriate. Documentation relative to the history of definitive periodontal and/or endodontic therapy is required.</li> <li>2. If an edentulous space is closed to the point that replacement of the missing tooth would not be customary (space of three millimeters or less), the pontic or replacement tooth is not appropriate.</li> <li>3. The abutment teeth must meet criteria for full crown placement. Refer to DDVA Clinical Policy #200 on "Full Crown Placement."</li> <li>4. The indications for placement of fixed partial dentures must be accompanied by diagnostic full mouth, panoramic or other radiographs that show the entire arch.</li> <li>5. An edentulous space does not qualify for restorative treatment by placement of a fixed partial denture if the space is created by migration or drifting of teeth</li> <li>6. Fixed bridge replacement of a primary tooth will not be considered unless the tooth to be replaced has been occlusally functional and present in the arch until the patient is 25 years of age.</li> <li>7. Anterior cantilever fixed bridges will be considered only if the abutment is a periodontically sound cuspid, and no more than one pontic is used.</li> <li>8. Except in extraordinary circumstances, posterior fixed bridges require the use of two abutments.</li> <li>9. Second molar distal pontics will not be considered unless that pontic is an integral part of a fixed bridge utilizing more than one abutment, and the pontic is necessary for prevention of passive eruption of an opposing first or second molar.</li> <li>10. Abutments and pontics beyond the normal and necessary number will not be considered.</li> <li>11. Fixed bridges utilized for periodontal splinting do not meet the criteria for treatment.</li> <li>12. Placement of a fixed partial denture and a removable partial denture will not be considered adequate treatment if the total number of missing teeth in contralateral quadrants is three or more, and the occlusion can be adequately restored with the removable prosthesis.</li> <li>13. The cementation or delivery date of a full crown is considered the date the completed crown is first cemented in the mouth. The type of cement is not a determining factor of the date of delivery.</li> </ol>
<b>Codes(5):</b>	D6210-6253 – Pontics D6545-6548 – Cast metal and ceramic FPD retainers

	D6600-6634 – Inlay and onlay retainers D6710-6793 – Full crown and 3/4 crown retainers
<b>References:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Christensen, GJ. Day-to-day fixed prosthodontics: a fast, easy, predictable approach. J Amer Dent Assoc 1992; 123:91-92.</li><li>2. Christensen, GJ. Improving the quality of fixed prosthodontic services. J Amer Dent Assoc 2000; 131:1631-1632.</li><li>3. Rosensteil SP, Land MP and Fujimoto J. Contemporary Fixed Prosthodontics. 4th edition, 2006, C V Mosby Inc.</li><li>4. Rosensteil SP, Land MP and Fujimoto J. Contemporary Fixed Prosthodontics. 4th edition. C V Mosby Inc.</li><li>5. American Dental Association, <i>Current Dental Terminology. CDT 2011-2012</i>;53-55. (©ADA 2010).</li></ol>