

UPDATED! ATTACHMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CROWN BUILDUPS – D2950

In recent years Aetna has seen a startling increase in submissions for crown buildups (D2950.) Many providers are reporting D2950 with every crown they submit.

In order to assure that benefits are being applied appropriately, and to gather data on submitted buildups to inform future plan designs; we will now require pre-and post-operative radiographic images or photographs that illustrate the need for and placement of a buildup.

We intend to apply benefits based explicitly on the CDT nomenclature and descriptor:

D2950 - Core Buildup, Including Any Pins.

"Refers to the building up of coronal structure when there is insufficient retention for a separate extracoronar restorative procedure. A core buildup is not a filler to eliminate any undercut, box form, or concave irregularity in a preparation."

Gathering images will help us to distinguish a true buildup from bases, liners, undercut fillers or material placed to idealize a crown preparation. According to the Journal of Contemporary Clinical Dentistry¹, a core buildup is a "restoration" placed in a "badly broken down tooth" to facilitate eventual placement of an indirect extra-coronar restoration. Your photographic claim attachments will help us to compile data on what defines "badly broken down" and whether or not the reported buildup replaces a significant amount of tooth structure, allowing for proper claim adjudication.

We appreciate all of the images submitted since the new requirements were announced. They have been very helpful in the adjudication process!

¹Kumar G, Shivrayan A. Comparative study of mechanical properties of direct core build-up materials. *Contemporary Clinical Dentistry*. 2015;6(1):16-20. doi:10.4103/0976-237X.149285.