

February 26, 2026

Updated HPSM Dental Crown Policy

Dear dental providers,

This notice is to inform you that effective March 1, 2026, HPSM Dental will require treatment plan review (prior authorization) for more than four (4) crowns on any one individual in one year.

If you plan to clinically proceed between now and March 1, 2026 with more than four crowns (of any material), please send the case for review to dental@hpsm.org or call **650-616-1522** as soon as possible to let us know.

If more than four crowns are billed within one calendar year, the fifth crown will automatically be denied without treatment plan review.

To consider four (4) or more crowns and ensure compliance with Medicaid criteria, it is suggested providers clearly outline the following along with acquiring radiographs:

Criteria	Example (See below for an example of what to send)
Tooth number	Tooth #4
Surfaces and cusps destroyed by caries, or note other etiology	MODBL surfaces destroyed/ undermined due to caries
Tooth vitality testing and diagnosis; or if RCT, prognosis of existing RCT	RCT previously completed on 1/4/26 with good prognosis, vitality testing 1/2/26 with periapical RL and irreversible pulpitis.
Planned crown and CDT code	D2740 planned for #4, PA radiograph enclosed
Prognosis with treatment planned crown	Plan D2740 or D2751 with good prognosis post-RCT

As a reminder, criteria for laboratory-processed crowns are noted in the Medi-Cal Dental handbook (see link below). There must be:

1. Gross pathologic destruction of the crown of the tooth, usually due to caries.

2. No cosmetic or replacing tooth structure due to attrition, abrasion, or erosion.
3. No cosmetic reconstruction or opening of the vertical dimension of occlusion as rationale for crowns.
4. There must be good oral hygiene demonstrated, tooth vitality, and a prognosis of good or better for the tooth being treatment planned for the crown.

Additional criteria for:

Front teeth	Destruction of the crowns of the front teeth must have four (4) or more surfaces <u>plus</u> a line angle. The line angle for the facial and lingual are not considered unless they wrap around the tooth <u>to at least the midline</u> , or if more than 50% of the front tooth crown is destroyed.
Pre-molars	Crowns are ok if Root Canal Treatment (RCT) treated within six (6) months. If not RCT treated, then the coronal destruction must involve three (3) or more surfaces <u>plus</u> a cusp.
Molars	Crowns are ok if RCT treated within six (6) months. If not RCT treated, then they must show destruction of four (4) or more surfaces <u>plus</u> two (2) or more cusps.

Resources:

- Medi-Cal Dental Handbook:
https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/Providers/Medi_Cal_Dental/Provider_Publications/MocSmaVersions
- Medi-Cal Dental Manual of Criteria for Crowns:
https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/MCD_documents/providers/MOC_CDT25_Feb_10.pdf

Please direct questions to HPSM Dental at dental@hpsm.org.

Thank you,

The Health Plan of San Mateo