

Dental Procedure Codes and Nomenclature (CDT Code)

<http://www.ada.org/en/publications/cdt>

Purpose

The purpose of Current Dental Terminology (CDT) Codes is to achieve uniformity, consistency and specificity in accurately documenting dental treatment. One use of CDT Codes is to provide for the efficient processing of dental claims, and another is to populate an Electronic Health Record (EHR).

On August 17, 2000 the CDT Code was named as a HIPAA standard code set. Any claim submitted on a HIPAA standard electronic dental claim must use dental procedure codes from the version of the CDT Code in effect on the date of service. The CDT Code is also used on paper dental claims, and the ADA's paper claim form data content reflects the HIPAA electronic standard.

Coding Education

<http://www.ada.org/en/publications/cdt/coding-education>

Some CDT Codes, especially recent additions, may not be readily understood by dentists and others in the dental community. These codes prompt a need for a coordinated educational message on the procedure and its reporting. The American Dental Association, with support from organizations on the Code Maintenance Committee and others in the dental community, has developed a variety of educational materials.