

Core Buildup, Post and Core, and Pin Retention

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[Instructions for Use](#)

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Related Dental Policies

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- [Single Tooth Indirect Restorations](#)

Coverage Rationale

Restorative Foundation for an Indirect Restoration

A restorative foundation for an [Indirect Restoration](#) is indicated as a filler to eliminate undercuts, voids, and other irregularities that have occurred during tooth preparation to create a more favorable tooth form for the retention of an Indirect Restoration.

Core Buildup (Including Any Pins When Required)

[Core Buildup](#) is indicated for teeth with loss of coronal tooth structure due to caries or trauma in which insufficient tooth structure remains to adequately retain an Indirect Restoration.

Core Buildup is not indicated for the following:

- As a filler to correct irregularities in preparation
- As a definitive composite or amalgam restoration
- For retention of intracoronal restorations

Post and Core

[Post](#) and core are indicated for the following:

- For teeth with loss of coronal tooth structure in endodontically treated teeth in which insufficient tooth structure remains to adequately retain an Indirect Restoration
- For Posts when there is inadequate remaining tooth structure to support a core

Post and core are not indicated for teeth with short roots.

A Post is not indicated when anatomic features are available to retain the core (e.g., when canals and pulp chamber can retain a core).

Pin Retention

[Pin](#) retention is indicated for teeth with significant loss of coronal tooth structure to allow retention of a direct restoration.

Pin retention is not indicated for the following:

- For restoration of teeth with significant malocclusion
- If the tooth cannot be properly restored with a direct restoration due to anatomic or functional considerations

Post Removal

Post removal is indicated for the following:

- When there has been loss of adequate retention
- In the case of fracture of tooth and/or Post and core
- When there is recurrent caries associated with Post and core
- When access is needed to root canal system for non-surgical endodontics
- When the tooth has a reasonable long-term prognosis for a new restoration

Definitions

Core Buildup: The replacement of a part or the entire crown of a tooth whose purpose is to provide a base for the retention of an indirectly fabricated crown. (ADA)

Indirect Restoration: A restoration fabricated outside the mouth. (ADA)

Pin: A small metal rod cemented or driven into dentin to aid in retention of a restoration. (ADA)

Post: Rod-like component designed to be inserted into a prepared root canal space so as to provide structural support. This device can either be in the form of an alloy, carbon fiber or fiberglass, and Posts are usually secured with appropriate luting agents. (ADA)

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this guideline does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

CDT Code	Description
D2949	Restorative foundation for an indirect restoration
D2950	Core buildup, including any pins when required
D2951	Pin retention – per tooth, in addition to restoration
D2952	Post and core in addition to crown, indirectly fabricated
D2953	Each additional indirectly fabricated post - same tooth
D2954	Prefabricated post and core in addition to crown
D2955	Post removal
D2957	Each additional prefabricated post – same tooth
D2999	Unspecified restorative procedure, by report

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Description of Services

There are situations when a tooth does not have sufficient remaining tooth structure to support the planned restoration. In these cases, the anatomical crown may be “built up” following preparation using a restorative material foundation. Posts and cores (for endodontically treated teeth) and Pins may also be indicated to aid in retention. These procedures should be performed on teeth that have an overall favorable long-term prognosis.

References

American Association of Endodontists Guide to Clinical Endodontics; 6th edition. 2013. Updated in 2019.

American Dental Association (ADA) CDT Codebook 2026.

American Dental Association Glossary of Clinical and Administrative Terms.

Boushell L, Wilder A. Sturdevant's Art and Science of Operative Dentistry, 6th ed. St. Louis: Mosby c2013. Chapter 16, Complex Amalgam Restorations; p.429-30.

Rosenstiel S, Land M, Fujimoto J. Contemporary Fixed Prosthodontics, 5th ed. St. Louis: Mosby c2016. Part 1: Planning and Preparation, Chapter 3 Treatment Planning; p.77-85.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
05/01/2026	<p data-bbox="337 367 613 399">Coverage Rationale</p> <p data-bbox="337 399 1036 430">Core Buildup (Including Any Pins When Required)</p> <ul data-bbox="337 430 1485 583" style="list-style-type: none">Replaced language stating "Core Buildup is indicated for teeth with <i>significant</i> loss of coronal tooth structure due to caries or trauma in which insufficient tooth structure remains to adequately retain an Indirect Restoration" with "Core Buildup is indicated for teeth with loss of coronal tooth structure due to caries or trauma in which insufficient tooth structure remains to adequately retain an Indirect Restoration" <p data-bbox="337 588 539 619">Post and Core</p> <ul data-bbox="337 619 1513 772" style="list-style-type: none">Replaced language stating "Post and core are indicated for teeth with <i>significant</i> loss of coronal tooth structure in endodontically treated teeth in which insufficient tooth structure remains to adequately retain an Indirect Restoration" with "Post and core are indicated for teeth with loss of coronal tooth structure in endodontically treated teeth in which insufficient tooth structure remains to adequately retain an Indirect Restoration" <p data-bbox="337 777 662 808">Supporting Information</p> <ul data-bbox="337 808 1169 871" style="list-style-type: none">Updated <i>References</i> section to reflect the most current informationArchived previous policy version DCP021.10

Instructions for Use

This Dental Clinical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard and Medicare Advantage dental plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard dental plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this guideline, check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Dental Clinical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.