



Helping you navigate your medical and dental coverage to give you the most for your benefits dollars

## Aetna Oral Surgery Center of Excellence

Oral surgery — Is it dental or medical in nature?

Oral and maxillofacial surgery (oral surgery) is the branch of dental medicine that provides surgical treatment for diseases, disorders, deformities and injuries to the bones of the face, jaw, teeth and mouth.

**Aetna defines oral surgery in two categories: “dental in nature” and “medical in nature”**

### **Dental**

Any surgical procedure that is directly related to the teeth.

### **Medical**

Any surgical procedure that is directly related to:

- The treatment of disease of the facial bones
- Trauma to the soft and hard tissue structures of the face and oral cavity
- The treatment of TMJ (temporomandibular joint) disorder
- The correction of facial abnormalities that were present at birth (congenital) or developed later on

# Frequently asked questions and answers

**Q: How do I know which plan — medical or dental — covers oral surgery?**

A: This will depend upon the procedures involved and how your plan is set up. There are several different ways that oral surgery can be covered. We suggest that members get a pretreatment estimate for any oral surgery procedure. For more detailed information contact Member Services at the number listed on your Aetna ID card and ask for the Oral Surgery Center of Excellence.

**Q: Where can my health professional and I find a list of the oral surgery procedure codes that Aetna considers to be “dental in nature” and “medical in nature”?**

A: You and your health professional can find additional oral surgery information, including a complete list of oral surgery procedure codes, by logging in at [www.aetnadental.com](http://www.aetnadental.com). Select ‘Aetna Dental FAQs’ located at the top right of the homepage. Toggle to the Claim Resources section in the left menu. Select ‘Understanding Aetna Oral Surgery Benefits.’

**Q: Do I have to get treatment from an oral surgeon or can my general dentist perform the services I need?**

A: Under certain plans, services may be provided by an oral surgeon or a licensed general dentist. First determine if your services will be covered under your medical or dental plan, and then seek treatment from the appropriate medical or dental health professional. Going to an in-network dental or medical health professional may give you a greater benefit.

**Q: How will my oral surgery service be reimbursed if my health care professional participates in your dental and medical networks?**

A: You will be reimbursed under the plan in which the oral surgery procedures are considered covered services.

**Q: Can I go to a participating dental specialist even if my procedures are going to be payable under my medical plan?**

A: Yes, you can, for certain medical plans. Your participating dentist’s contracted rates will apply, subject to medical coinsurance or copays. For verification of coverage, contact Member Services at the number listed on your Aetna ID card and ask for the Oral Surgery Center of Excellence.

**Q: Are surgical extractions, such as removal of impacted teeth, considered dental or medical in nature oral surgery procedures?**

A: Surgical extractions of any type are considered dental in nature oral surgery procedures for all Aetna plans. These procedures are typically covered under Aetna medical plans including HMO (HMO covers bony impactions only). However, based on your plan of benefits, these may be covered under your dental plan. To verify coverage, contact Member Services at the number listed on your Aetna ID card and ask for the Oral Surgery Center of Excellence.

**Still not sure what to do?**  
Contact Member Services at the number listed on your Aetna ID card and ask for the Oral Surgery Center of Excellence.

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