Delta Dental of New Jersey Clinical Policy #2015-02000-00001

Subject
Full coverage crowns

Originating Department
Professional Services

Signature Authority
Dental Director/Chief Clinical Officer

Type: ✓ New     □ Replacement     □ Revision     □ Clarification

Date: 5/29/2014     Revision Date: ____________

Preamble:
The Clinical Policy Bulletin is an expression of Delta Dental of New Jersey’s (DDNJ) determination regarding whether certain services or supplies are medically or dentally necessary. Its dental consultants also consider their training and experience in determining medical/clinical necessary. Although each source is not necessarily applied in the development of each and every criterion the clinical policies consider the following sources:

- Appropriate peer review dental literature
- Published standards of professional organizations
- Input from dentists and Delta Dental dental directors and dental consultants
- Input from the Delta USA Scientific Advisory Committee
- Changes to the CDT (updated annually)
- The DeltaUSA Dental Consultant Manual

The enrollee’s Certificate of Coverage defines covered services as well as other limits. DDNJ advises dentists and enrollees to consult the plan documents to determine if there are exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to the service request. The conclusion that a particular service is medically or dentally necessary does not constitute an indication or warranty that the service requested is a covered benefit payable by DDNJ. Some plans exclude coverage for services that DDNJ considers either medically or dentally necessary. When there is a discrepancy between DDNJ’s clinical policy and the enrollee’s plan documents, DDNJ will defer to the enrollee’s plan documents as to whether the dental service is a covered benefit.

Full Coverage Crowns
| Policy Therapy/Guidelines: | a. A full coverage crown is an artificial replacement that restores missing tooth structure by surrounding part or all of the remaining structure with material such as cast metal, porcelain, or combinations of materials such as metal and porcelain (1)  
|                       | b. Placement of a full crown restoration is indicated when:  
|                       |   a) a tooth is compromised by extensive decay, large restorations involving at least three to four tooth surfaces, or fracture of the tooth, which results in mobility or loss of the fractured segments (2)  
|                       |   b) the tooth cannot be reasonably restored to functionality with either silver amalgam or resin-based composite materials alone (2,3)  