

**Codes and Coverage:** This document is about coding. Coding and coverage are NOT the same. Dental professionals are obligated to use the most accurate code available. Accurate coding does guarantee coverage under a particular policy. CDT codes are risk and diagnosis based, not product based. To optimize coverage under a policy, a dental-medical necessity recorded in *Box 35 Remarks* is important.

**Dental/Medical Necessity ‘Twitter’ Style:** Dental-medical necessity narratives are not long and ponderous. They work best when writing is concise; brevity is the key. We can all take a lesson from the social media app, Twitter. Twitter posts can be a maximum of 140 characters; not 140 words. 140 is the total number of characters, punctuation and spaces that are allowed.

**Dental/Medical Necessity for Care-Risk Assessment:** Risk assessment will help determine diagnosis. These can be considered modifier codes that support WHY for other care. There may/may not be coverage for these codes but should be submitted in conjunction with other codes.

- **D0601 caries risk assessment and documentation, with a finding of low risk**
- **D0602 caries risk assessment and documentation, with a finding of moderate risk**
- **D0603 caries risk assessment and documentation, with a finding of high risk**

The code nomenclature/name contains the word *documentation*. This dictates necessity of documentation of the dental/medical necessity for the care. In this case the method of determining caries risk is needed. A wide variety of quantifiable caries risk assessment tools are available: Paper/computer based Q&A, Saliva tests, Bacterial tests

**New CDT 2017** New technologies, materials and procedures are constantly evolving for earlier arrest and prevention of oral disease. For 2017, a new code was added for calibrated instruments that can better define the caries infection process and cavitation. These instruments do not use ionizing radiation.

- **D0600 non-ionizing diagnostic procedure capable of quantifying, monitoring and recording changes in the structure of enamel, dentin, and cementum**

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# Applicable Codes for Phocal Disks

## Option 1:

**D1208 topical application of fluoride – excluding varnish.** All age-based information has been removed from codes several years ago. Policies may differ. To optimize coverage, document dental-medical necessity in Box 35 Remarks. The delivery system is not specified and any professionally applied fluoride can qualify under this code including Phocal Disks.

RECORD OF SERVICES PROVIDED										
24. Procedure Date (MM/DD/CCYY)	25. Area of Oral Cavity	26. Tooth System	27. Tooth Number(s) or Letter(s)	28. Tooth Surface	29. Procedure Code	29a. Diag. Pointer	29b. Qty.	30. Description	31. Fee	
xx/xx/2017					D0602			caries risk assessment and documentation, with a finding of moderate risk		
xx/xx/2017					D1208			topical application of fluoride – excluding varnish		
<b>35. Remarks</b> High risk per ADA risk assessment, pH 5.5, restoration 2/11/16. <b>(Note: on most RA systems, a single restoration in 3 years = high risk)</b>										

Dental-medical necessity  
**61**  
 character

This code, while accurate, does not account for Phocal’s unique disk form of or insertion between the teeth and often is not limited to a single interproximal area.

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## Option 2: More Accurate

**Added in CDT 2016**

**D1354 interim caries arresting medicament application.** Conservative treatment of active, non-symptomatic carious lesion by topical application of a caries arresting or inhibiting medicament and without mechanical removal of sound tooth structure.

In some instances, after placement of a Phocal disk, the buccal or lingual portion can be coated with a protective varnish and can also be submitted for fluoride varnish

### Sample Submission: (partial ADA 2012 Claim form)

RECORD OF SERVICES PROVIDED										
24. Procedure Date (MM/DD/CCYY)	25. Area of Oral Cavity	26. Tooth System	27. Tooth Number(s) or Letter(s)	28. Tooth Surface	29. Procedure Code	29a. Diag. Pointer	29b. Qty.	30. Description		31. Fee
xx/xx/2017					D0603			caries risk assessment and documentation, with a finding of high risk		
xx/xx/2017		2-3			D1354			Interim caries arresting medicament application		
xx/xx/2017		14-15			D1354			Interim caries arresting medicament application		
xx/xx/2017					D1206			topical application of fluoride varnish		
35. Remarks High risk caries fluorescence 1.5-2.5, placed interproximal fluoride disks. Plaque induced gingival disease modified by systemic factors- Kidney disease										

Dental-medical necessity  
**152**  
 character

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