

Dr. Z's Medical Coding Series  
**Diagnostic Radiology**  
**Coding Reference**

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## Dental Procedures

### PROCEDURE:

Dental procedures are rarely performed outside of a dental office and are usually not covered by Medicare. The x-rays can be of one tooth, a section of teeth, or the entire mouth. More prevalent is the orthopantomogram or Panorex that images all the teeth and the mandible on one film.

### CLINICAL INDICATIONS:

bothach, gingivitis, facial trauma, caries, etc

### CODES:

PROCEDURE DESCRIPTION	PROCEDURE CODE	APC	WORK RVU
Radiologic examination, teeth; single view	70300	5521	0.10
Radiologic examination, teeth; partial examination, less than full mouth	70310	5523	0.16
Radiologic examination, teeth; full mouth	70320	5523	0.22
Cephalogram, orthodontic	70350	5521	0.17
Orthopantomogram	70355	5521	0.20

### CODING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Code bite wing x-rays as a single view. If multiple bite wing x-rays are obtained, this may comprise a partial mouth (70310).

Do not report more than one of the codes in the table for a single encounter for Medicare.

An orthodontic cephalogram (70350) includes measurements. Some payers cover this procedure when cephalometric analysis of the head is performed for sleep apnea patients. Code 70350 includes frontal and lateral views.

4. An orthopantomogram is usually called a panorex, and may be utilized for dental or temporomandibular imaging.

5. At the time of this writing, Medicare will pay for dental services that are an integral part of a covered procedure (e.g., reconstruction of the jaw following injury or for extractions done in preparation for radiation treatment for neoplastic diseases involving the jaw. Medicare will also make payment for oral examinations, but not treatment, preceding kidney transplantation or heart valve replacement under certain circumstances. Such examinations would be covered under Part A if performed by a dentist on the hospital's staff or under Part B if performed by a physician. Closely monitor CMS coverage policies, as this may change.

6. Medicare doesn't cover items and services for the care, treatment, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth or structures directly supporting the teeth (the periodontium, which includes gingivae, dentogingival junction, periodontal membrane, cementum, and the alveolar bone).

Examples of non-covered dental services include, but aren't limited to, the following: routine dental care; extraction of an impacted tooth; dental services performed in connection with excluded services (like to prepare the mouth for dentures) including alveoplasty, dental ridge reconstruction, frenectomy, or removing the torus palatinus; and dental services related to other non-covered services.

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AMA, *CPT Assistant*, Aug 12:14

MS, Medicare Dental Care, Overview, 11/07/23

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## CT of the Breast

### PROCEDURE:

3D CT imaging of the breast requires a dedicated CT scanner. The patient lays prone with the breast hanging through an opening in the table. It is claimed to be better than traditional mammography for evaluating breast masses as it is true 3D imaging, not quasi 3D like tomosynthesis. It has superior imaging of dense and/or large breasts and breast imaging on a patient with implants. It does not require compression, so is more comfortable for the patient. The viewing software allows the radiologist to review images in multiple planes and magnify and adjust slice thickness of the images. Areas of concern can also be measured and annotated.

### CLINICAL INDICATIONS:

Signs or symptoms of breast disease or abnormal findings on a standard mammogram.

### CODES:

PROCEDURE DESCRIPTION	PROC CODE	APC	WORK RVU
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, unilateral; without contrast material	0633T	5522	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, unilateral; with contrast material(s)	0634T	5571	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, unilateral; without contrast, followed by contrast material(s)	0635T	5571	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, bilateral; without contrast material(s)	0636T	5523	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, bilateral; with contrast material(s)	0637T	5572	0.00
Computed tomography, breast, including 3D rendering, when performed, bilateral; without contrast, followed by contrast material(s)	0638T	5572	0.00

### CODING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Six category III CPT codes (0633T-0638T) describe breast CT.
2. The codes are differentiated by unilateral and bilateral and by contrast administration.
3. Report codes 0633T, 0634T, and 0635T for unilateral imaging.
4. Report code 0636T for bilateral imaging without contrast, code 0637T for bilateral imaging with contrast, and 0638T for unilateral imaging with and without contrast.
5. Report codes 0636T, 0637T, and 0638T for bilateral imaging.
6. Report code 0636T for bilateral imaging without contrast, code 0637T for bilateral imaging with contrast, and 0638T for bilateral imaging with and without contrast.

7. Report only one code from this series of codes for a single study.
8. **Do not** separately report 3D post-processing (76376, 76377) when performed.
9. **Do not** report CT imaging of the breast(s) with code 76380 or 76497 (unlisted procedure code).

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Orenstein, B. (2018). A New Look: Could Breast CT Surpass 2D Mammography or Digital Breast Tomosynthesis for Screening. *Radiology Today*, 19(1):14.

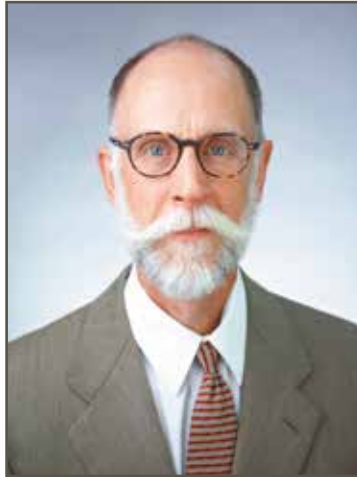
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Jeffery Majchrzak



Code more accurately  
Avoid coding compliance problems  
Ensure proper reimbursement