

PREPARATION: *POSTERIOR AMALGAM*

2026 Dental Therapy

Criteria applicable January 1 through July 31

CRITICAL ERRORS		
Wrong tooth/surface treated	NO	YES
Unrecognized exposure	NO	YES

NOTE: Those SUBs that are highlighted are part of the 3-SUB Rule

ACC= Adheres to Criteria SUB= Marginally Substandard DEF= Critically Deficient

EXTERNAL OUTLINE FORM

Proximal Clearance

ACC	Contact is visibly open proximally, and proximal clearance at the height of contour extends ≤ 1.0 mm on either one or both proximal walls.
SUB	A. Proximal clearance at the height of contour is > 1.0 mm but ≤ 2.0 mm on either one or both proximal walls.
DEF	A. Proximal clearance at the height of contour is > 2.0 mm on either one or both proximal walls. B. The walls of the proximal box are not visually open.

Gingival Clearance

ACC	The gingival clearance is visually open but ≤ 1.0 mm.
SUB	A. The gingival clearance is > 1.0 mm but ≤ 2.0 mm.
DEF	A. The gingival clearance is > 2.0 mm. B. Gingival contact is not visually open.

Outline Shape/Continuity/Extension

ACC	The outline form includes all carious and non-coalesced fissures, and is smooth, rounded, and flowing.
SUB	The outline form is inappropriately over-extended so that it compromises the remaining marginal ridge and/or cusp(s).
DEF	The outline form is over-extended so that it compromises, undermines, and leaves unsupported the remaining marginal ridge to the extent that the pulpal-occlusal wall is unsupported by dentin, or the width of the marginal ridge is < 1.0 mm.

Isthmus

ACC	The isthmus may be between 1.0 mm - 2.0 mm in width but is $\leq 1/3$ the intercuspal width.
SUB	A. The isthmus is $> 1/3$ but $\leq 1/2$ the intercuspal width.
DEF	A. The isthmus is $> 1/2$ the intercuspal width. B. The isthmus is < 1.0 mm.

Cavosurface Margin

ACC	The proximal cavosurface margin deviates from 90° but is unlikely to jeopardize the longevity of the tooth or restoration; this would include small areas of unsupported enamel.
SUB	The proximal cavosurface margin deviates from 90° and is likely to jeopardize the longevity of the tooth or restoration. This would include unsupported enamel and/or excessive bevel(s).

Sound Marginal Tooth Structure

ACC	The cavosurface margin terminates in sound tooth structure. There is no degree of decalcification on the gingival margin.
SUB	The cavosurface margin does not terminate in sound tooth structure.
DEF	A. There is explorer-penetrable decalcification remaining on the cavosurface margin. B. There are large or multiple areas of unsupported enamel which are not necessary to preserve facial aesthetics.

INTERNAL FORM	
Axial Walls	
ACC	MOLARS: The depth of the axial wall extends beyond the DEJ ≤ 1.5 mm. PREMOLARS: The depth of the axial wall extends beyond the DEJ ≤ 1.0 mm.
SUB	MOLARS: The axial wall extends beyond the DEJ > 1.5 mm but ≤ 2.5 mm. PREMOLARS: The axial wall extends beyond the DEJ > 1.0 mm but ≤ 1.5 mm.
DEF	A. MOLARS: The axial wall extends beyond the DEJ > 2.5 mm. A. PREMOLARS: The axial wall extends beyond the DEJ > 1.5 mm B. MOLARS & PREMOLARS: The axial wall is entirely in enamel.
Pulpal Floor	
ACC	The pulpal floor depth extends beyond the DEJ ≤ 1.5 mm.
SUB	A. The pulpal floor extends beyond the DEJ > 1.5 mm but ≤ 2.5 mm.
DEF	A. The pulpal floor extends beyond the DEJ > 2.5 mm. B. The pulpal floor is entirely in enamel.
Caries	
ACC	All caries removed.
DEF	A. Caries has not been accessed and/or remains in the preparation.
Retention	
ACC	Retention, when used, is well defined, in dentin, and does not undermine enamel.
SUB	Retention, when used, undermines the enamel or may compromise the tooth or restoration.
DEF	Retention, when used, grossly compromises the tooth or restoration.
Proximal Box Walls	
ACC	The walls of the proximal box are parallel, but appropriate internal retention is present.
SUB	The walls of the proximal box diverge occlusally which is likely to jeopardize the longevity of the tooth or restoration.
DEF	The walls of the proximal box diverge occlusally which offers no retention and will jeopardize the longevity of the tooth or restoration.
TREATMENT MANAGEMENT	
Adjacent Tooth Damage	
ACC	Any damage to adjacent tooth/teeth can be removed with polishing without adversely altering the shape of the contour and/or contact.
SUB	Damage to adjacent tooth/teeth requires re-contouring that changes the shape and/or contour and/or contact.
DEF	There is gross damage to adjacent tooth/teeth which requires a restoration.
Soft Tissue Damage	
ACC	The soft tissue is free from damage or there is tissue damage that is consistent with the procedure.
DEF	There is gross iatrogenic damage to the soft tissue inconsistent with the procedure and pre-existing condition of the soft tissue.