

# 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 = Critical Deficiency

| EXTERNAL OUTLINE FORM                      |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Outline Extension</b>                   |  |
| ACC  | The facial wall, if broken, may extend < 1.0 mm beyond the contact area. The outline form dimension is $\leq$ 3.0 mm incisal gingivally.   |
| SUB  | A. The incisal cavosurface margin is over-extended so that the integrity of the incisal angle is compromised.<br>B. The facial wall extends > 1.0 mm but $\leq$ 2.0 mm beyond the contact area.<br>C. The outline form dimension is > 3.0 mm but $\leq$ 5.0 mm incisal gingivally. |
| DEF  | A. The incisal angle is unnecessarily removed or fractured.<br>B. The facial wall extends > 2.0 mm beyond the contact area.<br>C. The outline form dimension is > 5.0 mm incisal gingivally.   |
| <b>Gingival Clearance</b>                  |  |
| ACC  | The gingival clearance is $\leq$ 1.0 mm.   |
| SUB  | The gingival clearance is > 1.0 mm but $\leq$ 2.0 mm.  |
| DEF  | The gingival clearance is > 2.0 mm.  |
| <b>Margin Smoothness/Continuity/Bevels</b> |  |
| ACC  | The cavosurface margins may be slightly irregular. Enamel cavosurface margin bevels, if present, are $\leq$ 1.0 mm in width.   |
| SUB  | The cavosurface margin is rough and severely irregular. Enamel cavosurface margin bevels, if present, are > 1.0 mm in width, are not uniform, or are inappropriate for the size of the restoration.  |
| <b>Sound Marginal Tooth Structure</b>      |  |
| ACC  | There may be a small area of unsupported enamel which is not necessary to preserve facial aesthetics. There is no previous restorative material, excluding sealants, at the cavosurface margin.  |
| SUB  | The cavosurface margin does not terminate in sound natural tooth structure.  |
| DEF  | A. There is explorer-penetrable decalcification remaining on the cavosurface margin.<br>B. There are large or multiple areas of unsupported enamel which are not necessary to preserve facial aesthetics.  |
| INTERNAL FORM                              |  |
| <b>Axial Walls</b>                         |  |
| ACC  | <b>MAX CENTRALS:</b> The depth of the axial wall extends $\leq$ 1.5 mm in depth from the DEJ.<br><b>MAX LATERALS:</b> The depth of the axial wall extends $\leq$ 1.0 mm in depth from the cavosurface margin.  |
| SUB  | <b>MAX CENTRALS:</b> The depth of the axial wall extends > 1.5 mm but $\leq$ 2.5 mm in depth from the DEJ.<br><b>MAX LATERALS:</b> The depth of the axial wall extends > 1.0 mm but $\leq$ 2.0 mm in depth from the cavosurface margin.  |
| DEF  | <b>MAX CENTRALS:</b> The depth of the axial wall extends > 2.5 mm in depth from the DEJ.<br><b>MAX LATERALS:</b> The depth of the axial wall extends > 2.0 mm beyond the cavosurface margin.   |
| <b>Internal Retention</b>                  |  |
| ACC  | If used, rounded internal retention is placed in the dentin of the gingival and incisal walls just axial to the DEJ as dictated by cavity form. Retention is tactilely and visually present.   |
| SUB  | When used, retention is excessive and undermines enamel, or jeopardizes the incisal angle, or encroaches on the pulp.  |

| INTERNAL FORM (...cont'd)    |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Caries</b>                |  |
| <b>ACC</b>                   | All caries removed.  |
| <b>DEF</b>                   | Caries has not been accessed and/or remains in the preparation.  |
| TREATMENT MANAGEMENT         |  |
| <b>Adjacent Tooth Damage</b> |  |
| <b>ACC</b>                   | Any damage to adjacent tooth/teeth can be removed with polishing without adversely altering the shape of the contour and/or contact. |
| <b>SUB</b>                   | Damage to adjacent tooth/teeth requires re-contouring that changes the shape and/or contour and/or contact.                          |
| <b>DEF</b>                   | There is gross damage to adjacent tooth/teeth which requires a restoration.  |
| <b>Soft Tissue Damage</b>    |  |
| <b>ACC</b>                   | The soft tissue is free from damage or there is tissue damage that is consistent with the procedure.                                 |
| <b>DEF</b>                   | There is gross iatrogenic damage to the soft tissue inconsistent with the procedure and pre-existing condition of the soft tissue.   |