

PREPARATION: POSTERIOR COMPOSITE

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	
Proximal Clearance	
ACC	Proximal contact is either closed or visibly open, and, at the height of contour, proximal clearance may extend \leq 1.0 mm beyond either one or both proximal walls.
SUB	Proximal clearance at the height of contour extends $>$ 1.0 mm but \leq 2.0 mm beyond either one or both proximal walls.
DEF	Proximal clearance at the height of contour extends $>$ 2.0 mm beyond either one or both proximal walls.
Gingival Clearance	
ACC	The gingival clearance is visually open but \leq 1.0 mm.
SUB	The gingival clearance is $>$ 1.0 mm but \leq 2.0 mm.
DEF	A. The gingival clearance is $>$ 2.0 mm. B. The gingival contact is not visually open.
Outline Shape/Continuity/Extension	
ACC	The outline form may be sharp and irregular
SUB	The outline form is inappropriately over-extended, compromising the remaining marginal ridge and/or cusp(s).
DEF	A. The outline form is grossly over-extended, compromising and undermining the remaining marginal ridge to the extent that the cavosurface margin is unsupported by dentin. B. The width of the marginal ridge is \leq 1.0 mm.
Isthmus	
ACC	The isthmus may be between 1.0 mm - 2.0 mm in width but \leq 1/3 the intercuspal width.
SUB	The isthmus is $>$ 1/3 the intercuspal width but \leq 1/2 the intercuspal width.
DEF	The isthmus is $>$ 1/2 the intercuspal width or the isthmus width is $<$ 1.0 mm.
Cavosurface Margin	
ACC	The external cavosurface margin meets the enamel at 90°; The gingival floor is flat, smooth, and perpendicular to the long axis of the tooth.
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.
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 \leq 1.5 mm. PREMOLARS: The depth of the axial wall extends beyond the DEJ \leq 1.0 mm.
SUB	MOLARS: The axial wall extends beyond the DEJ $>$ 1.5 mm but \leq 2.5 mm. PREMOLARS: The axial wall extends beyond the DEJ $>$ 1.0 mm but \leq 1.5 mm.
DEF	MOLARS: The axial wall extends beyond the DEJ $>$ 2.5 mm. PREMOLARS: The axial wall extends beyond the DEJ $>$ 1.5 mm. MOLARS & PREMOLARS: The axial wall is entirely in enamel.
Pulpal Floor	
ACC	The pulpal floor depth is \geq 0.5 mm but \leq 3.0 mm in all areas; there may be remaining enamel.
SUB	The pulpal floor depth is $>$ 3.0 mm but \leq 4.0 mm from the cavosurface margin.
DEF	A. The pulpal floor is $>$ 4.0 mm from the cavosurface margin. B. The pulpal floor depth is $<$ 0.5 mm.
Caries	
ACC	All caries removed.
DEF	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.
Proximal Box Walls	
ACC	The proximal walls are parallel or convergent occlusally but may be slightly divergent and are not likely to jeopardize the longevity of the tooth or restoration.
SUB	The proximal walls are too divergent.
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.