

2026 ADA CDT CHANGES QUICK CHEAT SHEET



MUST-KNOW DELETION (Stop using in 2026)

Deleted Code	What Changed	What To Do Instead
D1352	Preventive resin restoration deleted	Use D2391 (updated composite definition)
D9248	Non-IV conscious sedation deleted	Use new sedation-specific codes
D1705-D1707, D1712	COVID vaccine admin codes removed	No replacement (vaccines discontinued)

SEDATION & ANESTHESIA (Biggest Changes)

What's new:

Sedation is now reported by:

- **Route** (enteral, non-IV parenteral, IV, GA)
- **Level** (minimal, moderate, general)
- **Time increments (15 minutes)**

New Codes You'll See:

- **Minimal sedation (enteral)** D9244
- **Moderate sedation (enteral)** D9245
- **Moderate sedation (non-IV parenteral)** D9246 / D9247
- **General anesthesia w/ advanced airway** D9224 / D9225

Documentation MUST include:

- **Route of administration**
- **Drugs used**
- **Start & stop times**
- **Monitoring details**
- **Provider presence**

Red Flag:

“Sedation given” without time = **denial**

IMPLANTS & MAINTENANCE

New Code When to Use It

D6049	Scaling/debridement of a single implant with peri-implantitis (no flap)
D6280	Implant maintenance for full-arch removable implant dentures (per arch)
D6196	Removal of indirect restoration on the implant abutment

Why this matters:

Clearer implant codes = fewer “bundled” denials + better patient explanations.

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DIAGNOSTICS & TECHNOLOGY

New Code What It Covers

D0426	Point-of-care saliva testing
D6280	Cracked tooth testing
D9128 / D9129	Photobiomodulation therapy (laser therapy)

Coverage note:

Many plans may not pay, but strong documentation and patient communication help.

OCCLUSAL GUARDS

New Code Use Case

D9936	Cleaning & inspection of occlusal guard (per appliance)
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Great for consistency even if patient pay.

PROSTHETICS (Specialty / Advanced Care)

New codes added for:

- Denture duplication (maxillary & mandibular)
- Guidance prostheses
- Resection prostheses (removable & fixed, implant-supported options)

Office impact:

Primarily affects prosthodontic, surgical, and hospital-based practices, but is critical for accurate reporting.