

## Dental Clinical Policy: Frenectomy (Frenulectomy)

Reference Number: CP.DP.41

Last Review Date: 12/23

[Coding Implications](#)[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

### Description

Frenectomy (frenulectomy) or frenuloplasty involves the surgical release and/or repositioning of soft tissue fibers attached to maxillary labial/buccal alveolar mucosa and gingival tissue, the tongue and mandibular lingual alveolar mucosa or gingival tissue, or mandibular labial/buccal alveolar mucosa and gingival tissue.

### Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of Envolve Dental Inc.® that frenectomy (frenulectomy) or frenuloplasty is **medically necessary** when any of the following conditions are met:
  - A. When the frenum attachment causes infants to experience breastfeeding/suckling difficulty;
  - B. When the frenum attachment impedes proper fit or causes tissue trauma related to a removable prosthesis;
  - C. When the frenum attachment interferes with proper oral hygiene measures;
  - D. When the frenum attachment poses the potential for orthodontic treatment relapse;
  - E. When the frenum attachment creates a significant persistent midline diastema and results in a medically documented psychological condition;
  - F. When the frenum attachment causes gingival defects and/or loss of alveolar bone leading to a present or future detriment of the involved dento-alveolar complex;;
  - G. When the frenum attachment limits tongue mobility/function and creates a medically documented restriction:
  - H. When the frenum attachment results in speech pathology;
  - I. When the frenum attachment causes swallowing problems;
  - J. Does not have any of the following contraindications:
    1. When the frenectomy (frenulectomy) or frenuloplasty is provided solely for cosmetic reasons/purposes;
    2. When the frenectomy (frenulectomy) or frenuloplasty is provided during the primary dentition to reduce or eliminate natural spacing between primary teeth;
    3. When the frenum attachment is in close proximity to vasculature and nervous structures and treatment poses the risk of permanent damage to nervous/vascular tissues during the incision and drainage process;
    4. When health conditions are present that could potentially affect soft tissue healing (Severe Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, chemotherapy agents, etc.);
  - K. Required documentation to support medical necessity include the following:
    1. Clinical chart and treatment notes documenting conditions listed in the indications for the use of frenectomy or frenuloplasty;
    2. Photographic images showing the frenum condition, when requested.

### II. Coverage Limitation/Exclusions

1. One D7961 or D7963 per arch per lifetime

**Frenectomy**

2. One D7962 per lifetime
3. Subject to state-specific regulations.

**Coding Implications**

This clinical policy references Current Dental Terminology (CDT®). CDT® is a registered trademark of the American Dental Association. All CDT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2023, American Dental Association. All rights reserved. CDT codes and CDT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

| CDT® Codes | Description  |
|------------|--|
| D7961      | Buccal / labial frenectomy (frenulectomy)  |
| D7962      | Lingual frenectomy (frenulectomy)  |
| D7963      | Frenuloplasty – excision of frenum with accompanying excision or repositioning of aberrant muscle and z-plasty or other local flap closure |

**ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria**

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description   |
|----------------|---|
| M26.01         | Maxillary hyperplasia   |
| M26.03         | Mandibular hyperplasia  |
| M26.71         | Alveolar maxillary hyperplasia  |
| M26.72         | Alveolar mandibular hyperplasia                                       |
| M26.79         | Other unspecified alveolar anomalies                                  |
| M26.81         | Anterior soft tissue impingement                                      |
| M26.82         | Posterior soft tissue impingement                                     |
| M26.82         | Posterior soft tissue impingement                                     |
| Q38.0          | Congenital malformations of lips, not elsewhere classified            |
| Q38.1          | Ankyloglossia   |
| Q38.3          | Other congenital malformations of tongue                              |
| Q38.6          | Other congenital malformations of mouth                               |
| R47.9          | Unspecified speech disturbances                                       |
| F80.9          | Developmental disorders of speech and language, unspecified           |
| K06.1          | Gingival enlargement  |
| K06.2          | Gingival and edentulous alveolar ridge lesions associated with trauma |
| K06.8          | Other specified orders of gingiva and edentulous alveolar ridge       |

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date  | Approval Date |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Policy developed                  | 10/20 | 10/20         |
|                                   |       |               |

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date  | Approval Date |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Annual Review                     | 11/21 | 11/21         |
| Annual Review                     | 12/22 | 12/22         |
| Annual Review and Format Change   | 12/23 | 12/23         |

**References**

1. American Dental Association. CDT 2023: Dental Procedure Codes. American Dental Association, 2023.
2. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. Pediatric Dentistry: Reference Manual. 2022.
3. Hupp, J., Tucker, M., & Ellis, E. (2018). Contemporary Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. St. Louis, Mo: Mosby Elsevier.
4. Ness G. (2016). Atlas of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, 1st ed. St. Louis, Mo: Mosby Elsevier.

**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of dental practice; peer-reviewed dental/medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national dental and health professional organizations; views of dentists practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. Envolve Dental makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of dental practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Envolve Dental” means a dental plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Envolve Benefit Options, Inc, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to dental and medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Envolve Dental administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by Envolve Dental. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. Envolve Dental retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

### Frenectomy

This clinical policy does not constitute dental or medical advice, dental treatment or dental care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice dentistry. Providers are expected to exercise professional dental and medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the dental and medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating dentist in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom Envolve Dental has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of Envolve Dental.

This clinical policy is the property of Envolve Dental. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

**Note: For Medicaid members,** when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

**Note: For Medicare members,** to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

©2023 Envolve Benefit Options, Inc. All rights reserved. All materials are exclusively owned by Envolve Benefit Options, Inc and are protected by United States copyright law and international copyright law. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, modified, distributed, displayed, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means, or otherwise published without the prior written permission of Envolve Benefit Options, Inc. You may not alter or remove any trademark, copyright or other notice contained herein. Envolve Benefit Options<sup>®</sup> and Envolve Benefit Options, Inc<sup>®</sup> are registered trademarks exclusively owned by Envolve Benefit Options, Inc.