

Intra-Oral Appliances and Splints for Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Syndrome, DME 222

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Implementation	6/1/2025
Next Review Date	3/2026
Coverage Policy	DME 222
Version	6

Member-specific benefits take precedence over medical policy and benefits may vary across plans. Refer to the individual's benefit plan for details [*](#).

Description & Definitions:

Intra-oral appliances and splints are devices used to alleviate pain and other symptoms caused by temporomandibular joint (TMJ) syndrome.

Criteria:

Intra-Oral Appliances and Splints for Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Syndrome are considered medically necessary with **1 of the following**:

- For an initial device individual has indications of **all of the following**:
 - Evidence of clinically significant masticatory impairment with documented pain and/or loss of function
 - Temporomandibular joint pain localized, continuous, and described as moderate to severe
 - Temporomandibular joint pain worse during jaw functions (e.g., chewing, talking)
- For an adjustment of an intra-oral appliance individual must have **all of the following**:
 - Initial appliance therapy was placed less than six (6) months before adjustment

There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the medical necessity of intra-oral appliances and splints for temporomandibular joint (TMJ) syndrome for uses other than those listed in the clinical indications for procedure section.

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2024: March
- 2019: November
- 2015: June, October
- 2014: June, October
- 2013: February, June

- 2012: July
- 2011: June, July
- 2010: July
- 2009: June
- 2008: May
- 2005: December
- 2004: October
- 2002: October
- 1998: May, October, November
- 1995: July

Reviewed Dates:

- 2025: March – Implementation date of 6/1/2026. No changes references updated
- 2023: March
- 2022: April
- 2021: May
- 2020: May
- 2018: April
- 2016: April, June
- 2010: June
- 2007: December
- 2005: September
- 2003: October, November
- 2001: October
- 2000: October
- 1999: October
- 1996: March

Effective Date:

- May 1995

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
21085	Impression and custom preparation; oral surgical splint
D7880	Occlusal Orthotic Device

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
	None

The preceding codes are included above for informational purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Additionally, inclusion or exclusion of a treatment, procedure, or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

Special Notes: *

- Coverage:
 - See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.
- Application to products:
 - Policy is applicable to Sentara Health Plan Commercial products.
- Authorization requirements:
 - Pre-certification by the Plan is required.
- Special Notes:
 - Commercial
 - Medical policies can be highly technical and complex and are provided here for informational purposes. These medical policies are intended for use by health care professionals. The medical policies do not constitute medical advice or medical care. Treating health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment, and medical advice. Sentara Health Plan members should discuss the information in the medical policies with their treating health care professionals. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and these medical policies are subject to change without notice, although Sentara Health Plan will notify providers as required in advance of changes that could have a negative impact on benefits.
 - Services mean both medical and behavioral health (mental health) services and supplies unless We specifically tell You otherwise. We do not cover any services that are not listed in the Covered Services section unless required to be covered under state or federal laws and regulations. We do not cover any services that are not Medically Necessary. We sometimes give examples of specific services that are not covered but that does not mean that other similar services are covered. Some services are covered only if We authorize them. When We say You or Your We mean You and any of Your family members covered under the Plan. Call Member Services if You have questions.

References:

Including but not limited to: Specialty Association Guidelines; Government Regulations; Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; UpToDate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

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AAOMS develops guidance for diagnosing, managing TMJ disorders and pain. (2024, 8). Retrieved 2 2025, from American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS): <https://aaoms.org/publications/position-papers/clinical-papers/>

NCD: Durable Medical Equipment Reference List 280.1. (2023, 9). Retrieved 2 2025, from CMS - National Coverage Determination (NCD): <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?ncdid=190&ncdver=3&bc=0>

Parameters and Guidelines for Treatment of TMD. (2025). Retrieved 2 2025, from American Society of Temporomandibular Joint Surgeons (ASTMJS): <https://astmjs.org/about/>

Provider Manuals- Dental (DentaQuest LLC). (2023, 6). Retrieved 2 2025, from DMAS: <https://vamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/va-smiles-for-children-orm-06-02-2023.pdf>

Temporomandibular disorders in adults. (2025, 1). Retrieved 2 2025, from UpToDate: https://www.uptodate.com/contents/temporomandibular-disorders-in-adults?search=Treatment%20of%20Temporomandibular%20Joint%20Disorders&source=search_result&selectedTitle=1%7E97&usage_type=default&display_rank=1#H88680923

Keywords:

SHP Intra-Oral Appliances and Splints for Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Syndrome, SHP Durable Medical Equipment 222on-Surgical Treatment of Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Syndrome and Treatment of Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD), SHP Medical 29, internal derangement, osteoarthritis, jaw pain, jaw, jaw opening restriction, jaw functions, chewing, talking, SHP Intra-Oral Appliances and Splints, oral appliances, splints