

Insurance Coverage Request Letter

(Dental Office Letterhead)

<Dental Director Name>

<Insurance Company>

<Address>

Subject: Coverage request for CDT Code D0431: adjunctive pre-diagnostic test that aids in detection of mucosal abnormalities including pre-malignant and malignant lesions, not to include cytology or biopsy procedures.

Dental Director:

The American Dental Association (ADA) assigned CDT code D0431 for adjunctive oral cancer screening. This procedure code was based on the clinical efficacy¹ and FDA approval of **ViziLite® Plus®**, which is a diagnostic aid that helps oral healthcare professionals identify and mark abnormal oral lesions suspicious for pathology.

ViziLite® Plus enables me to visualize abnormal oral lesions, including pre-cancerous cells and cancer, which might be missed during my conventional oral cancer exam. In one clinical study it was demonstrated that ViziLite® Plus dramatically reduced the number of false positives lesions identified during conventional visual examination². In other studies, ViziLite® Plus identified abnormal lesions, including cancer, that were missed during conventional visual examinations^{3,4,5}. The ADA has stated that more than 25% of oral cancer victims do not use tobacco and have no other risk factors⁶. As such, I will be offering annual ViziLite® Plus exams to all my adult patients. Moreover, failure to diagnose oral cancer is the second most frequent reason dentists are sued with some plaintiff awards exceeding policy limits.

I have incorporated ViziLite® Plus into my practice based upon its clinically-proven ability to identify and mark abnormal oral lesions, including precancerous cells and cancer. However, without dental insurance support, many patients may forego this potentially life-saving procedure. I strongly recommend that you begin to offer coverage for enhanced oral cancer screening and D0431.

Sincerely,

¹ Multiple published clinical sources including:

1. FDA Web Site (www.fda.gov) accessed on April 2011; <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/pdf/k003995.pdf>
2. Epstein JB, Silverman S, Epstein JD, et al. Analysis of oral lesion biopsies identified and evaluated by visual examination, chemiluminescence and toluidine blue. *Oral Oncol.* 2008;44(6):615.
3. Huber MA DDS, Bsoul SA BDS, Terezhalmay GT DDS MA "Acetic Acid Wash and Chemiluminescent Illumination as an Adjunct to Conventional Oral Soft Tissue Examination for the Detection of Dysplasia: A Pilot Study" *Quintessence International* Volume 35, Number 5, May 2004
4. Epstein JB DMD, MSD, FRCD(C); Gorsky M DMD; Lonky SA MD, FACP, MBA; Silverman S Jr DDS. MA; Epstein JD MA; Bride MA DDS *The Efficacy of Oral Lumenoscopy™ (ViziLite®) in Visualizing Oral Mucosal Lesions* Spec. Care Dentistry 26(4): 171-174, 2006
5. Kerr AR; Sirois DA; Epstein JB *Clinical Evaluation of Chemiluminescent Lighting: An Adjunct for Oral Mucosal Examinations* Journal of Clinical Dentistry 17:59-63, 2006
6. American Dental Association. *Oral health topics: Cancer, oral.* Available at: <http://www.ada.org/2607.aspx?currentTab=2>. Accessed April 14, 2010.