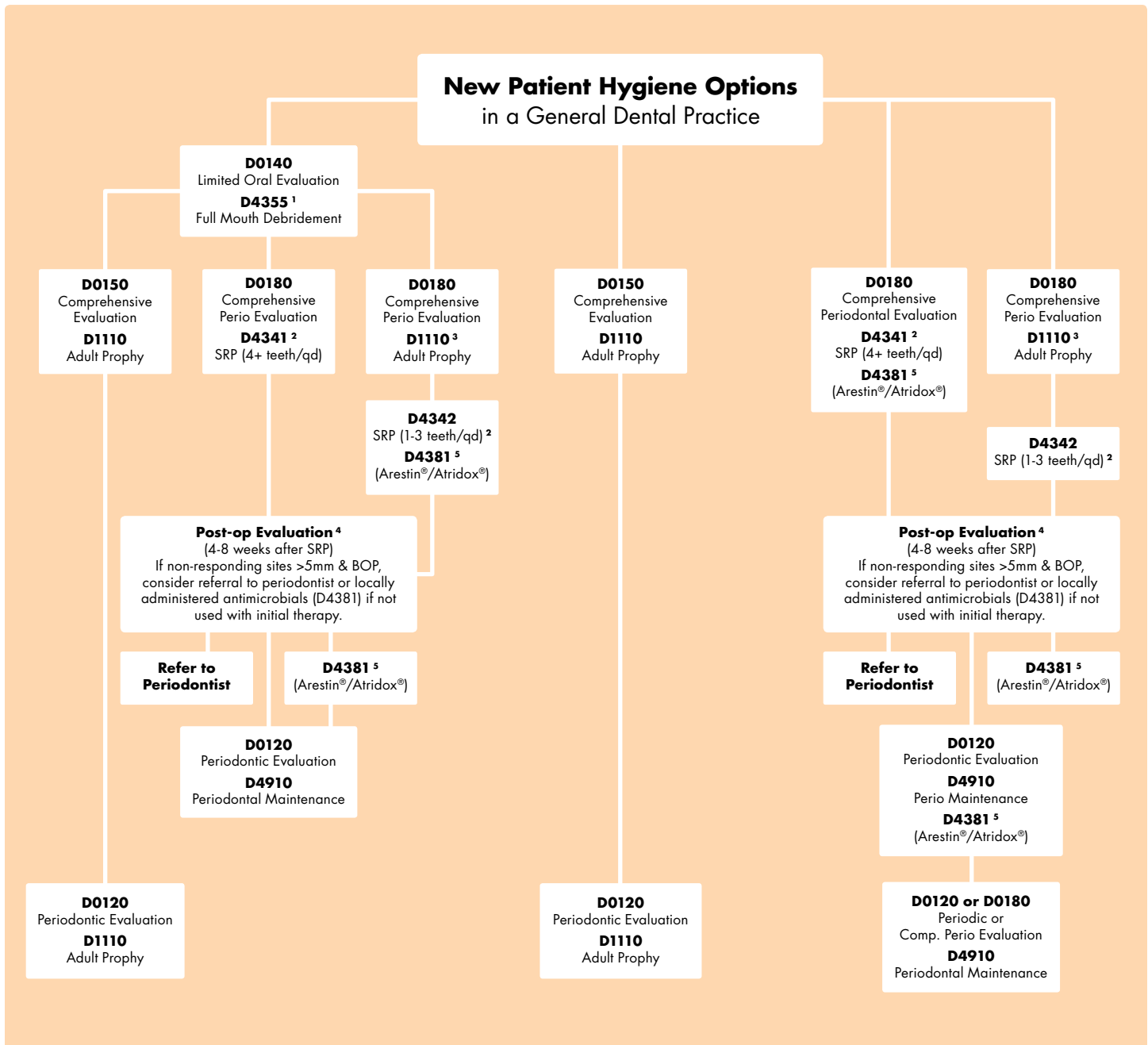


CDT 2009/2010 Hygiene Flow Chart

The following flow chart illustrates just a few of the many coding sequences that may be appropriate for a new patient in a general practice. This does not address all the possible coding scenarios; however, it gives the reader a glimpse of some of the possibilities. As most dental offices are well aware, proper coding still does not guarantee payment. It is important to proactively educate patients about the destructive nature

of periodontal disease and remind them that their employer determines which procedures are covered by their dental plans. Only when patients understand that periodontal disease is a bacterial infection that can lead to tooth loss and may complicate pregnancy, diabetes, heart disease, etc., will they value periodontal treatment enough to willingly pay for services not covered by their dental plan.



¹ Some plans do not pay D4355 if billed on the same day as D0150, D0180, or D0120.

² Patients may need several appts. Of SRP depending on periodontal diagnosis. Some carriers limit payment to 2 quads per day.

³ When a patient requires isolated root planing (D4342), it may be best to do the prophylaxis first (on the areas without bone loss) since some plans do not benefit D1110 within 90 days of D4341/D4342.

⁴ The post-root planning evaluation is typically considered part of the fee for D4341/D4342.

⁵ While many dental plans now cover D4381 on the same day as D4341/D4342, some only consider payment if placed 4-6 weeks after SRP.