

Enhanced benefits for those with high-risk medical conditions

Delta Dental has enhanced dental coverage for enrollees with certain high-risk medical conditions. We have done so based on scientific evidence that treating and preventing oral disease in these situations can improve overall health.

Those eligible for this coverage include:

- People with diabetes and periodontal (gum) disease
- Pregnant women who have periodontal (gum) disease
- People with certain heart conditions that put them at high or moderate risk for infective endocarditis, a potentially deadly heart infection.
- People with kidney failure or who are undergoing dialysis
- People with suppressed immune systems due to chemotherapy and/or radiation treatment, HIV positive status, organ transplant, and/or stem cell (bone marrow) transplant.

The improved benefits include coverage of up to four teeth cleanings (either routine cleanings or periodontal maintenance cleanings) per benefit period instead of the typical two. The routine cleanings are covered at the same copayment level as other preventive services. The periodontal maintenance cleanings are covered at the same percentage as other periodontal services, unless your group's contract covers this service at the preventive level. For people undergoing head and neck radiation, fluoride applications by your dentist are also covered twice per benefit period. (This service typically is covered only to age 19.)

The costs of the additional cleanings and fluoride treatments will be applied to your annual maximum.

The timing of treatment is very important when serious medical conditions exist. If you have one of these conditions, talk with your dentist and physician about if and when treatment is right for you.

The benefit is being offered as part of Delta Dental's evidence-based benefits for high-risk medical patients. Check your plan description to see if you have this coverage.

