



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

**Delta Dental of Illinois Awarded Administration of Dental Services
for the State of Illinois Group Dental Plans**

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (June 7, 2011) -- Delta Dental of Illinois today announced it has been awarded the bid for the administration of dental services for the State of Illinois Group Dental Plans, which consists of the Quality Care Dental Plan (QCDP), Local Care Dental Plan (LCDP) and the College Choice Dental Plan (CCDP), effective July 1, 2011. The State has paid claims based upon a Schedule of Benefits for many years. However, in an effort to maximize savings for the State, its employees and their families, the State is offering access to the Delta Dental PPOSM and Delta Dental Premier[®] networks.

“Moving to a network-based plan is expected to help save the State and its employees and their families significant claim dollars,” said Bernie Glossy, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Illinois. “Dental networks help make dental care more accessible and affordable to consumers and those employer groups who offer dental benefit programs. A key part of Delta Dental of Illinois’ mission is to improve the oral health of Illinois residents. As an Illinois-based non-profit dental service corporation, we believe that offering the State of Illinois and its employees access to our vast quality network of dentists not only directly contributes to this mission, but also can help the State fiscally.”

While the State’s dental plan is not changing, the addition of the Delta Dental PPO and Delta Dental Premier networks is new. More than 5,000 network dentist locations across the state participate in Delta Dental PPO and over 8,700 participate in Delta Dental Premier – three out of every four dentists in the state. As part of their participation in the dental networks, dentists agree to provide dental services for lower fees and in turn, have access to a larger patient base.

As is current practice with State of Illinois dental claims, claim payments are released according to the claim process date and available funding from the State. Delta Dental reimburses all network dentists directly and these dentists cannot collect full payment upfront from enrollees. For self-insured groups, like the State of Illinois, when an enrollee uses a non-network dentist, Delta Dental sends payment to the enrollee and the enrollee then pays the dentist for treatment rendered. It is the sole discretion of a dentist whether to collect payment upfront from his or her patients.

Delta Dental of Illinois’ claim turnaround is outstanding, averaging less than two days from claim receipt to final processing. As soon as Delta Dental receives funds from the State, payment will promptly be made to the dentist or enrollee. Late payment interest (LPI) will be paid in accordance with Illinois law as it has been.

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“Freedom of choice is and always has been an important component of our business. The fact is that enrollees and employer groups who offer dental benefit programs are likely to save the most money when they use a network dentist,” said Glossy. “Similar to how it works in medical PPO plans, enrollees have access to a large quality network of providers who have agreed to accept the allowed fees of the respective networks they participate in, but are free to use non-network providers if they choose to do so, but may pay more out-of-pocket if they do.”

As an Illinois-based non-profit organization with a mission of improving oral health in the state, Delta Dental of Illinois furthers this mission by not only offering dental benefit programs that stress preventive care and make access to dental care more affordable to consumers, but also by supporting programs and organizations in Illinois that provide oral health education or access to oral health services to the underserved in Illinois.

“Delta Dental of Illinois is proud of our working relationships with Illinois’ dentists and highly respects their professionalism. We are confident that all dentists in the state share our commitment to improving the oral health of Illinois citizens and will continue to provide the same level of quality care to all patients – regardless of reimbursement level or how quickly they are reimbursed for services,” added Glossy.

With the addition of the State of Illinois Group Insurance Dental Plans, Delta Dental of Illinois and other Delta Dental member companies will insure and/or provide administrative services to two million enrollees in Illinois. The State joins 4,800 Delta Dental, Illinois business clients, including one-third of Fortune 1000 companies headquartered in Illinois and more than 400 Illinois municipal and school district groups.

About Delta Dental of Illinois

Delta Dental is by far the largest and most experienced dental benefits carrier in the country, providing coverage for one-third of all Americans with dental insurance. Delta Dental of Illinois (DDIL) is a member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, and provides coverage to nearly two million people nationwide. DDIL is a not-for-profit dental service corporation that provides dental benefit programs to 4,800 employee groups throughout Illinois. DDIL is based in Naperville, Illinois and offers single-site administration and client services.