

Delta Dental of Illinois'
Smile Smart for Your Health
Enhanced Benefits Program

Enhancing benefits.
Improving overall health.



We give you a reason to smile.™



Recognizing the connection between oral health and overall health, Delta Dental of Illinois introduces its new Smile Smart for Your Health Enhanced Benefits Program. With this program, dentists can:

- Help reduce the risk of periodontal disease for diabetic patients
- Give pregnant women who show signs of periodontal disease a better chance of delivering full-term, healthier babies
- Reduce the risk of progressive periodontal diseases and tooth loss for at-risk populations
- Help in the fight against oral cancer

These research-supported facts come from the emerging science of evidence-based dentistry – a set of principles and methods intended to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that clinical decisions, guidelines and other types of policies are based on, and consistent with, good evidence of effectiveness and benefit.

As understanding of the connection between oral health and overall health grows, evidence-based dentistry bridges the gap between dentistry and medical treatment.

Special benefits for specific risks

Delta Dental of Illinois is adding new evidence-based dentistry solutions to most existing fully-insured groups' dental plans and offering these solutions as an option for all self-funded groups' dental plans. The program will also be added to all new fully-insured and self-funded quotes. The program applies to Delta Dental PPO and Delta Dental Premier plans only.

Studies show that periodontal disease is linked to complications resulting from diabetes, and that it is also a factor in the incidence of pre-term, low birth weight babies. Together, these problems create additional costs of well over \$150 billion annually in the United States, mostly for medical treatment.

Surprisingly affordable and easy to administer, this optional coverage can help employers lower their overall costs by directing preventive care where it's needed most – in addition to promoting medical cost savings.

Delta Dental of Illinois' Smile Smart for Your Health Enhanced Benefits Program provides special benefits to the following groups:

Benefits to Help in the Fight Against Oral Cancer

This year in the United States, 8,000 people will die from oral cancer and over 30,000 new cases will be diagnosed. The OralCDx brush biopsy is the newest tool in the early detection of oral cancer/precancerous cells – and represents a major breakthrough in the fight against oral cancer. The procedure is indicated to evaluate unexplained tiny white and red lesions – and the software used to analyze the samples can spot a precancerous/cancerous cell even if it is partially obscured by other cells. Helping to save lives by differentiating a precancer or early cancerous spot from a benign one, the brush biopsy analysis method from OralCDx has been extensively studied and is approved by the American Dental Association. All Delta Dental of Illinois plans cover the OralCDx brush biopsy, if oral surgery coverage is included in the plan*.

Benefits for Persons with Diabetes

With an indicator for diabetes, the enrollee will be eligible for four periodontal maintenance visits in a year (four CDT code 4910 – periodontal maintenance) or two

prophylaxis and two periodontal maintenance visits in a year (two CDT code 4910 – periodontal maintenance, or two CDT code 1110 – adult cleaning). Coverage will be at the group-contracted benefit level, with the additional frequency allowance being the only change. There is no end date on this additional coverage, no age requirement and the patient may be the subscriber, spouse or other covered dependent.

Benefits for Pregnant Women

With an indicator for pregnancy, the enrollee will be eligible for one additional prophylaxis or periodontal maintenance visit during the time of the pregnancy (CDT code 4910 – periodontal maintenance, or CDT code 1110 – adult cleaning). Coverage will be at the group-contracted benefit level, with the additional frequency allowance being the only change. There is no age requirement and the patient may be the subscriber, spouse or other covered dependent.

Benefits for Persons Who Have Had Periodontal Surgery or Disease

With an indicator of periodontal surgery or disease, the enrollee will be eligible for four periodontal maintenance visits in a benefit year (four CDT code 4910 – periodontal maintenance) or two prophylaxis and two periodontal maintenance visits in a year (two CDT code 4910 – periodontal maintenance, or two CDT code 1110 – adult cleaning). Additionally, following periodontal surgery, the enrollee will be eligible for two applications of topical fluoride varnish in a benefit year. Coverage will be at the group-contracted benefit level, with the additional frequency allowance being the only change. There is no end date on this additional coverage, no age requirement and the patient may be the subscriber, spouse or other covered dependent.

To learn more about our Smile Smart for Your Health Enhanced Benefits Program, call your insurance broker, or contact your account executive. Get the full story on evidence-based dental care by downloading a copy of our white paper at www.deltadentalil.com.

*The OralCDx brush biopsy is standardly covered under oral surgery in Delta Dental of Illinois' plans.