



Reduce barriers to care with the Special Health Care Needs Benefit from Delta Dental of North Carolina

The leading unmet health care need for the millions of U.S. children and adults with special health care needs is adequate dental care.

Now, Delta Dental of North Carolina can help you break down barriers to care for your eligible covered members by providing enhanced benefits to those with special health care needs.



These enhanced benefits are optional for your group.

You must let your account manager know if you would like to opt in to these benefits.

Here is a breakdown of benefit details that may help in making your decision:

Who qualifies for this benefit?

If your group opts in, covered members with a qualifying special health care need will be eligible for this benefit. There is no age limit on this benefit—all covered members would be eligible if they have a special health care need.

What is a special health care need? As defined by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, special health care needs include any physical, developmental, mental, sensory, behavioral, cognitive, or emotional impairment or limiting condition that requires medical management, health care intervention, and/or use of specialized services or programs. The condition may be congenital, developmental, or acquired through disease, trauma or environmental cause, and may impose limitations in performing daily self-maintenance activities or substantial limitations in a major life activity.

What is included in this benefit?

- Additional visits to the dentist's office and/or consultations that can be helpful prior to the first treatment to help patients learn what to expect and what is needed for a successful dental appointment.
- Up to four total dental cleanings in a benefit year.
- Treatment delivery modifications, including anesthesia, necessary for dental staff to provide oral health care for patients with sensory sensitivities, behavioral challenges, severe anxiety or other barriers to treatment.

What is the cost of this benefit?

There is no impact to the administrative fee that you pay Delta Dental of North Carolina. The claims cost impact has been actuarially determined to be minimal. In addition, your certificate maximum still applies. Please contact your client manager for additional information.

How is the benefit administered?

Once you opt in, eligible members should let their dental provider know that their group Delta Dental plan includes the Special Health Care Needs Benefit and that they have a special health care need. The provider will verify that the benefit is available to the member before rendering services.

How do we opt in?

Groups who want to opt in to this benefit should contact their Delta Dental account manager. They will answer any outstanding questions you may have and have your contract updated accordingly. Once you opt in, informational flyers can be downloaded and shared with your covered members.



The Special Health Care Needs benefit is a standard benefit on most group and individual dental plans administered by Delta Dental of North Carolina. Exceptions may apply. Check with your benefits administrator or your plan documentation to confirm this benefit is included in your dental plan. Plan Annual Maximums still apply. This benefit provides coverage for qualifying members who receive eligible services starting April 29, 2024.