

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 benefits are automatically available under your dental benefits plan.
Here is a breakdown of benefit details:

Who qualifies for this benefit?

Your covered members with a qualifying special health care need are eligible for this benefit. There is no age limit on this benefit—all covered members are 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 rate impact for your group to provide these benefits for eligible members.

How is the benefit administered?

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.

Coverage levels for the Special Health Care Needs Benefit will be included in your group's Summary of Dental Benefits.

How can we support our covered members?

The Special Health Care Needs Benefit is a great asset for those with a special health care need. Celebrate these benefits with your members and encourage utilization through ongoing, regular communications.

Informational flyers can be downloaded and shared with your covered members for use when visiting the dentist.

