



Enhanced dental benefits ensure long-term health, save money

We're looking out for our members

Our overall goal at HealthPartners is to improve the dental health of our members by providing them convenient care through great dental networks. To help your employees maintain and improve their dental health, here are some exciting benefits that HealthPartners offers:

- **Little Partners Dental.** Most services included in your dental plan that are performed by network providers for children 12 and under are covered at 100 percent, with no deductibles, no coinsurances and no annual maximum.
- **Periodontal Benefit.** Enhanced coverage above and beyond standard plan benefits are offered, such as additional cleanings and other necessary periodontal services, to pregnant and diabetic members.
- **Dental Implants.** This benefit includes coverage of prosthetics for implants, as well as the surgical portion of treatment.

Little Partners Dental

HealthPartners recognizes that a lifetime of good oral health starts with our youngest members. And that's why we offer the Little Partners Dental benefit, which is designed for the long-term health of our youngest members and makes sure children have every opportunity to receive proper dental care.

- A basic preventive step for children to maintain good oral health is regular dental visits.
- Dental caries, an infectious disease that damages the structure of teeth, is ranked as one of the most common chronic diseases affecting children in the United States.
- According to the American Dental Association, the earlier you schedule your child's first dental visit, the better the chance of preventing future dental problems.
- Estimates indicate that more than 51 million hours of school are lost each year due to dental-related illness.

This benefit also considers the financial impact of caring for teeth. Getting a jump start on good oral health protects against more advanced – and more costly – problems such as tooth loss, infection, and damage to bones or nerves.



For more information:

If you'd like more information about any of these benefits, please contact your broker.

Periodontal benefit for diabetic and pregnant members

HealthPartners acknowledges the connection between good oral and overall health, especially for those who have diabetes or are pregnant. This benefit is designed to improve the overall health of members. Recent studies conducted by the American Dental Association, the American Academy of Periodontists and others suggest that:

- Early treatment for pregnant women with serious periodontal disease reduced preterm births by 84 percent.
- Expectant mothers who increase the frequency of cleanings are more likely to give birth to full-term, healthy babies by preventing or minimizing gum disease. Pregnant women with gum disease may be up to seven times more likely to give birth to premature babies.
- Diabetics who have their teeth professionally cleaned are better able to control blood glucose levels. Controlling glucose helps prevent complications of diabetes, including blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, nervous system disorders, amputations and pregnancy complications. For every 1 point glucose test reduction, there is a 40 percent reduction of complications, along with a 14-percent decrease in the incidence of heart attacks and a 21-percent reduction in diabetes-related deaths.

The enhanced periodontal benefit also helps save money on medical costs. Early periodontal treatment reduced overall medical costs by 9 percent for diabetics. Members who received appropriate periodontal treatment had up to \$144 per member, per month lower medical costs than members who did not seek treatment. Staying healthy aids in preventing premature births, and with the average hospital cost of a complex newborn being \$35,600 compared against an average cost of a well newborn being \$1,300, the savings can quickly add up.*

Dental implants

We realize that in some instances dental implants are the best option for our members.

- Bridgework doesn't just involve the missing tooth, but also compromises the two teeth surrounding it. Implants leave healthy teeth intact and thus reduce the risks of creating additional problems, such as root canals, deterioration, disease and extraction.
- Dental implants integrate with the structure of the patient's bone, thus minimizing bone loss and gum recession that often accompany bridgework and dentures.

Implants restore the patient's confidence with better appearance and an ability to chew food easily, and they can last a lifetime, whereas bridges and crowns may need periodic replacements.

*Complex newborn is defined by HealthPartners as any hospital admission that reaches a certain length of stay or involves the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, or involves a transfer or expiration at discharge.

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