SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS BENEFIT

Dentist Instructions

For the over 7 million people in the U.S. with intellectual or developmental disabilities, visiting the dentist for oral health care can be overwhelming or even inaccessible.[1] Together, we can change that.

You are receiving this information because you may have a patient with a qualifying special health care need.[2] Delta Dental of Arizona provides additional dental benefits to help care for these individuals. Information about this benefit and how to submit claims is outlined below.

What is included in this benefit?

1. **Exams:** Additional dental visits are covered, if needed to help patients understand what to expect prior to treatment. Procedure codes: D0120, D0145, D0150, D0160 and D0180.
2. **Cleanings:** Up to four dental cleanings in a benefit year. Procedure codes: D1110, D1120, D4346, D4355 and D4910.
3. **Treatment delivery modifications** necessary for dental staff to provide oral health care for patients with sensory sensitivities, behavioral challenges or other barriers to treatment. Procedure code: D9997.
4. **The use of anesthesia** when necessary to provide dental care. Procedure codes: D9222, D9223, D9230, D9239, D9243.

Benefit Verification

Before rendering services, check the member's eligibility in the Dental Office Toolkit at deltadentalaz.com/dentist. If the member's plan includes this benefit, it will typically be noted in the Exclusions and Limitations section of the member details and benefits. *Note: There is no age limit for the special health care needs benefit.*

Submitting Claims

Once the benefit is verified, include procedure code D9997 (Dental Case Management – patient with special health care needs) on the claim, along with any other services that were rendered. Don't forget to include a narrative noting the qualifying condition.

FREE Continuing Education Series for Dental Staff

Penn Dental Medicine created a free continuing education series aimed at building awareness of—and to help provide access to—oral health care for individuals with disabilities. Scan the QR code or visit www.dental.upenn.edu/disabilitiescare to learn more.

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