



Reduce Barriers with the Special Health Care Needs Benefit

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 Delta Dental of Arizona is changing that by giving children and adults with special health care needs access to increased benefits.²

Who qualifies for this benefit?

Any enrolled employee or their enrolled family members diagnosed with a special health care need that significantly impairs their ability to get routine covered dental services may be eligible for additional services.³ There is no age limit for the special health care needs benefit.

What kind of special health care needs does this benefit cover?

People with any physical, developmental, mental, sensory, behavioral, cognitive or emotional impairment or a limiting condition requiring medical management, health care intervention, and/or the use of specialized services or programs may be eligible for additional services.⁴ This includes:

- Intellectual and neurodevelopmental disabilities
- Environmental or congenital injuries leading to disability
- Chromosomal abnormalities
- Syndromes or sequences with craniofacial or airway abnormalities
- Other sequences that require special dental care needs
- Any other syndrome, sequence, or abnormality that limits the ability to perform daily self-care or creates substantial limitations in a major life activity



What's included?

Delta Dental of Arizona members with a qualifying special health care need may be eligible for additional services, including:

- Additional visits, consultations and/or exams
- Up to four total dental cleanings per benefit year
- Treatment delivery modifications, which may include limited anesthesia, when necessary for dental staff to provide oral health care

What is the cost?

There is no direct rate impact for your group to provide these benefits for eligible members.

How do members access care?

Eligible members should let their dentist know they have a qualifying special health care need and that their dental plan includes the special health care needs benefit. The dentist should be able to verify the benefit before providing services.

How can we communicate this benefit to enrolled employees?

We've developed a member flyer with information about this benefit that you can share with your enrolled employees. It's available on the Employer Benefits Materials page of our website at deltadentalaz.com/employer.

¹University of Minnesota Residential Information Systems Project, "People with IDD in the United States". Retrieved from: <https://risp.umn.edu>

²For fully-insured/risk group clients only.

³The special health care needs benefit provides coverage for qualifying members who receive eligible services April 1, 2024 and later.

⁴People with anxiety, depression, or a fear of dentists or dental treatment (odontophobia) are not eligible for the special health care needs benefit.