

# Delta Dental of Iowa Enhanced Benefits Program

Your dental plan includes Delta Dental of Iowa’s Enhanced Benefits Program, which links medical conditions and dental benefits. This benefit offers additional oral health services to members with the following conditions:

**Cancer, Chemotherapy and/or Radiation** – A common side effect of head and neck radiation is an increase in cavities. The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research recommends fluoride treatment and the use of prescription-strength fluoride toothpaste for those undergoing this treatment.

**Diabetes** – Studies have shown in cases where diabetes is poorly controlled, patients who receive additional cleanings may see better-controlled glucose levels. Research has also confirmed that diabetes worsens with periodontal disease, and it strongly suggests that severe periodontal disease increases the severity of diabetes.

**High-Risk Cardiac Conditions** – By maintaining good oral health, individuals may reduce harmful inflammation in the body, which has been shown to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. The following conditions are eligible for benefits: a history of infective endocarditis; certain congenital heart defects; individuals with artificial heart valves; heart valve defects caused by acquired conditions; hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; individuals with pulmonary shunts or conduits; and mitral valve prolapse with regurgitation (blood leakage).

**Kidney Failure or Dialysis** – Dental infections increase the risk of systemic infection in people with kidney disease, and systemic infection increases the risk of serious side effects. Additional cleanings can reduce the buildup of bacteria in the mouth and help lower the risk of bacteria that will enter the bloodstream, create infection and further compromise their health.

**Periodontal (Gum) Disease** – For enrollees with a history of susceptibility to periodontal diseases or periodontal surgery, periodontal maintenance may need to be conducted at more frequent intervals than the traditional two cleanings per year. The additional cleanings are not only more economical than periodontal surgery, but also help maintain overall health and reduce tooth loss.

**Pregnancy** – Clinical studies of pregnant women with periodontal disease strongly suggest that more frequent professional teeth cleanings will benefit the health of both the baby and the mother.

**Suppressed Immune Systems** – With extra cleanings, patients that are HIV positive or have organ failure may reduce the buildup of bacteria in the mouth that may enter the bloodstream, create infection and further compromise their health.

	Cleanings	Fluoride Application*
Cancer-Related Chemotherapy and/or Radiation	4 cleanings per year	Fluoride application
Diabetes	4 cleanings per year	
High-Risk Cardiac Conditions	4 cleanings per year	
Kidney Failure or Dialysis	4 cleanings per year	
Periodontal (Gum) Disease	4 cleanings per year	Fluoride application
Pregnancy	1 additional cleaning	
Suppressed Immune Systems	4 cleanings per year	Fluoride application

\* Coverage for services will be at the group-contracted benefit level, with the additional frequency allowance being the only change. There are no age requirements and the patient may be the subscriber, spouse or other covered dependent. Fluoride will only apply if this is a covered benefit under the group’s dental plan.

# How to Sign Up for the Enhanced Benefits Program

To receive the additional dental benefits, you must enroll in the Enhanced Benefits Program.

## To enroll online:

- 1 Go to Delta Dental of Iowa's member website at [deltadentalia.com](http://deltadentalia.com) and sign into the Member Connection. (You must be a registered user of the Member Connection to enroll in the Enhanced Benefits Program.)
- 2 After you have successfully signed in, click on the "My Benefits" tab.
- 3 Choose the "Enhanced Benefits" tab and click on "Enroll Now."
- 4 Select the member and the applicable medical condition and click "Submit." You and/or your dependents will be immediately eligible for the Enhanced Benefits Program.

*Please note: The periodontal disease health condition indicator will automatically be updated when qualifying nonsurgical or surgical periodontal procedures are processed by Delta Dental of Iowa.*

You can also enroll in the Enhanced Benefits Program by asking your dentist to notify Delta Dental of your condition(s) or by calling Delta Dental's Customer Service at 800-544-0718, Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information regarding your benefits, sign up for the Member Connection on Delta Dental's website at [deltadentalia.com](http://deltadentalia.com).

