

Reducing Barriers to Care:

The Special Health Care Needs Benefit from Delta Dental



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 New Jersey and Connecticut can help break down barriers to care for your eligible covered members by providing an enhanced benefit to those with special health care needs.

Who qualifies for this benefit?

Effective January 1, 2024, group covered* members with a qualifying special health care need will be 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 included?

- Additional dental examinations and/or consultations that can be beneficial prior to 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?

There is no direct rate impact for your group to provide this benefit for eligible members.

How is the benefit administered?

We've deliberately minimized the impact to our members. Your enrolled employees simply let their dental provider know that their Delta Dental group plan includes the Special Health Care Needs Benefit and that they or their eligible dependent have a qualifying special health care need. The provider will verify that the benefit is available to the member before rendering services.

*Does not apply to Flagship, DeltaCare® USA, or Individual and Family Plans.

What are special health care needs?

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 impact people of any age, 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.