

**BENEFIT BOOKLET**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA STUDENT  
HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN**



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[deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com)

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**Group No: 20096 and 20097**

**Effective Date: August 1, 2024**

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## INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to welcome you to the group dental plan for University of California Student Health Insurance Plan (UC SHIP). Your plan is self-funded and your claims are administered by Delta Dental. Our goal is to provide you with the highest quality dental care and to help you maintain good dental health. We encourage you not to wait until you have a problem to see the Provider, but to see him/her on a regular basis.

This Benefit Booklet is a summary of your group dental program. Please read it carefully. It only summarizes the detailed provisions of the group dental contract issued by Delta Dental of California ("Delta Dental") and cannot modify the Contract in any way.

### Using This Benefit Booklet

This Benefit Booklet, which includes Attachment A, Deductibles, Maximums and Contract Benefit Levels (Attachment A) and Attachment B, Services, Limitations and Exclusions (Attachment B), discloses the terms and conditions of your coverage and is designed to help you make the most of your dental plan. It will help you understand how the plan works and how to obtain dental care. Please read this booklet completely and carefully. Keep in mind that "you" and "your" mean the individuals who are covered. "We," "us" and "our" always refer to Delta Dental. In addition, please read the Definitions section, which will explain any words that have special or technical meanings under the Contract.

The benefit explanations contained in this booklet are subject to all provisions of the Contract on file with UC SHIP ("Contractholder") and do not modify the terms and conditions of the Contract in any way, nor shall you accrue any rights because of any statement in or omission from this booklet.

**Notice:** *This booklet is a summary of your group dental plan and must be in effect at the time covered dental services are provided. This information is not a guarantee of covered benefits, services or payments.*

### Contact Us

For more information please visit our website at [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com) or call our Customer Service Center. A Customer Service Representative can answer questions you may have about obtaining dental care, help you locate a Delta Dental Provider, explain benefits, check the status of a claim, and assist you in filing a claim.

Check your coverage and get a cost estimate at [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com). If you'd like an ID card, you can view or print one online. To save time and paper, update your settings to paperless. You'll receive an email when a new dental benefits statement is available

You can access our automated information line at 888-335-8227 during regular business hours to obtain information about Enrollee eligibility and benefits, group benefits, or claim status, or to speak to a Customer Service Representative for assistance. If you prefer to write us with your question(s), please mail your inquiry to the following address:

*DELTA DENTAL OF CALIFORNIA  
560 Mission Street  
Suite 1300  
San Francisco, CA 94105*

## DEFINITIONS

Terms when capitalized in your Benefit Booklet have defined meanings, given in the section below or throughout the booklet sections.

**Accepted Fee:** the amount the attending Provider agrees to accept as payment in full for services rendered.

**Benefits:** covered dental services provided under the terms of the Contract.

**Calendar Year:** the 12 months of the year from January 1 through December 31.

**Claim Form:** the standard form used to file a claim or request Pre-Treatment Estimate.

**Contract:** the agreement between Delta Dental and the Contractholder, including any attachments.

**Contract Benefit Level:** the percentage of the Maximum Contract Allowance that Delta Dental will pay after the Deductible has been satisfied as shown in Attachment A.

**Contractholder:** the employer, union or other organization or group as named herein contracting to obtain Benefits.

**Contract Year:** the 12 months starting on the Effective Date and each subsequent 12 month period thereafter. Deductibles and Maximums will be determined using this 12 month period rather than on a Calendar Year basis.

**Deductible:** a dollar amount that an Enrollee and/or the Enrollee's family (for family coverage) must pay for certain covered services before Delta Dental begins paying Benefits.

**Delta Dental Premier<sup>®</sup> Provider (Premier Provider):** a Provider who contracts with Delta Dental or any other member company of the Delta Dental Plans Association and agrees to accept the Delta Dental Premier Contracted Fee as payment in full for covered services provided under a plan. A Premier Provider also agrees to comply with Delta Dental's administrative guidelines.

**Delta Dental Premier Contracted Fee:** the fee for a Single Procedure covered under the Contract that a Premier Provider has contractually agreed to accept as payment in full for covered services.

**Delta Dental PPO<sup>SM</sup> Provider (PPO Provider):** a Provider who contracts with Delta Dental or any other member company of the Delta Dental Plans Association and agrees to accept the Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fee contracted fees as payment in full for covered services provided under a PPO dental plan. A PPO Provider also agrees to comply with Delta Dental's administrative guidelines.

**Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fee:** the fee for a Single Procedure covered under the contract that a PPO Provider has contractually agreed to accept as payment in full for covered services.

**Dental Emergency:** Dental screening, examination, and evaluation by a Provider, or, to the extent permitted by applicable law, by other appropriate licensed persons under the supervision of a Provider, to determine if an emergency dental condition exists and, if it does, the care, treatment, and surgery, if within the scope of that person's license, necessary to relieve or eliminate the emergency dental condition, within the capability of the facility.

**Dental Emergency Condition:** a dental condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate dental attention could reasonably be expected to result in: 1) placing the Enrollee's health in serious jeopardy; 2) causing other serious dental or health consequences, and/or 3) causing serious impairment of dental functionality.

**Dependent Enrollee:** an Eligible Dependent enrolled to receive Benefits.

**Effective Date:** the original date the Contract starts. This date is given on this booklet's cover and Attachment A.

**Eligible Dependent:** a dependent of an Eligible Member eligible for Benefits.

**Eligible Member:** any member as eligible for Benefits.

**Enrollee:** an Eligible Member ("Primary Enrollee") or an Eligible Dependent ("Dependent Enrollee") enrolled to receive Benefits.

**Enrollee Pays:** Enrollee's financial obligation for services calculated as the difference between the amount shown as the Accepted Fee and the portion shown as "Delta Dental Pays" on the claims statement when a claim is processed.

**Enrollee's Effective Date of Coverage:** the date the Contractholder reports coverage will begin for each Primary Enrollee and each Dependent Enrollee.

**Maximum:** is the maximum dollar amount ("Maximum Amount" or "Maximum") Delta Dental will pay toward the cost of dental care. Enrollees must satisfy costs above this amount. Delta Dental will pay the Maximum Amount(s), if applicable, shown in Attachment A for Benefits under the Contract.

**Maximum Contract Allowance:** the reimbursement under the Enrollee's benefit plan against which Delta Dental calculates its payment and the Enrollee's financial obligation. Subject to adjustment for extreme difficulty or unusual circumstances, the Maximum Contract Allowance for services provided:

- by a PPO Provider is the lesser of the Provider's Submitted Fee or the Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fee.
- by a Premier Provider is the lesser of the Provider's Submitted Fee or the Delta Dental Premier Contracted Fee.
- by a Non-Delta Dental Provider is the lesser of the Provider's Submitted Fee or the Program Allowance.

**Non-Delta Dental Provider:** a Provider who is not a PPO Provider or a Premier Provider and is not contractually bound to abide by Delta Dental's administrative guidelines.

**Pre-Treatment Estimate:** an estimation of the allowable Benefits under the Contract for the services proposed, assuming the person is an eligible Enrollee.

**Primary Enrollee:** an Eligible Member enrolled in the plan to receive Benefits; may also be referred to as "Enrollee".

**Procedure Code:** the Current Dental Terminology® (CDT) number assigned to a Single Procedure by the American Dental Association.

**Program Allowance:** the maximum amount Delta Dental will reimburse for a covered procedure. Delta Dental sets the Program Allowance for each procedure through a review of proprietary data by geographic area. The Program Allowance may vary by the contracting status of the Provider and/or the Program Allowance selected by the Contractholder.

**Provider:** a person licensed to practice dentistry when and where services are performed. A Provider shall also include a dental partnership, dental professional corporation or dental clinic.

**Qualifying Status Change:** a change in:

- marital status (marriage, divorce, legal separation, annulment or death);
- number of dependents (a child's birth, adoption of a child, placement of child for adoption, addition of a step or foster child or death of a child);
- dependent child ceases to satisfy eligibility requirements;
- residence (Enrollee, dependent Spouse or child moves);
- a court order requiring dependent coverage; or
- any other current or future election changes permitted by Internal Revenue Code Section 125.

**Single Procedure:** a dental procedure that is assigned a separate Procedure Code.

**Spouse:** a person related to or a partner of the Primary Enrollee:

- as defined and as may be required to be treated as a Spouse by the laws of the state where the Contract is issued and delivered;
- as defined and as may be required to be treated as a Spouse by the laws of the state where the Primary Enrollee resides; and
- as may be recognized by the Contractholder.

**Submitted Fee:** the amount that the Provider bills and enters on a claim for a specific procedure.

## ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

### Eligibility Requirements

#### Insured Dependents

1. The following classes of dependents of insured students may enroll voluntarily in the plan:
  - a. Spouse: Legal spouse of the insured student.
  - b. Domestic Partner: The individual designated as an insured student's domestic partner under one of the following methods: (i) registration of the partnership with the State of California; (ii) establishment of a same-sex legal union, other than marriage, formed in another jurisdiction that is substantially equivalent to a State of California-registered domestic partnership; or (iii) filing of a Declaration of Domestic Partnership form with the University. An insured student's opposite-sex domestic partner will be eligible for coverage only if one or both partners are over age 62 and eligible for Social Security benefits based on age.
  - c. Child: The insured student's, spouse's or domestic partner's:
    - i. Biological child under the age of 26;
    - ii. Stepchild: A stepchild under the age of 26 is a dependent on the date the insured student marries the child's parent;
    - iii. Adopted child under the age of 26, including a child placed with the insured student for the purpose of adoption, from the moment of placement as certified by the agency making the placement;
    - iv. Foster Child: A foster child under the age of 18 is a dependent from the moment of placement with the insured student as certified by the agency making the placement. In certain circumstances, the foster child age limit may be extended, in accordance with the provision for a nonminor dependent, as defined in the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11400(v).
    - v. A child for whom the insured student is legally required to provide health insurance in accordance with an administrative or court order, provided that the child otherwise meets UC SHIP eligibility requirements.
    - vi. *Dependent Adult Child*: An child who is 26 years of age or older and: (i) was covered under the *prior plan*, or has six or more months of *creditable coverage*, (ii) is chiefly dependent on the *student, spouse or domestic partner* for support and maintenance, and (iii) is incapable of self-sustaining employment due to a physical or mental condition. A *physician* must certify in writing that the child is incapable of self-sustaining employment due to a physical or mental condition. The University may request proof of these conditions in order to continue coverage. The University must receive the certification, at no expense to the University, within 60 days of the date the *student* receives the request. The University may request proof of continuing dependency and that a physical or mental condition still exists, but, not more often than once each year after the initial certification. This exception will last until the child is no longer chiefly dependent on the *student, spouse or domestic partner* for support and maintenance due to a continuing physical or mental condition. A child is considered chiefly dependent for support and maintenance if he or she qualifies as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.
2. Students are required to provide proof of dependent status when enrolling their dependents in the plan. The following documents will be accepted:

**Note: If both student parents are covered as insured students, their children may be covered as the dependents of either, but not of both.**

- a. For spouse, a marriage certificate
- b. For a domestic partner, a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership issued by the State of California, or of same-sex legal union other than marriage formed in another jurisdiction, or a completed Declaration of Domestic Partnership form issued by the University
- c. For biological child, a birth certificate showing the student is the parent of the child
- d. For stepchild, a birth certificate, and a marriage certificate showing that one of the parents listed on the birth certificate is married to the student
- e. For adopted or foster child, documentation from the placement agency showing that the student, spouse or domestic partner has the legal right to control the child's health care
- f. For a biological child of a domestic partner, a birth certificate showing the domestic partner is the parent of the child.
- g. For any dependent, the date of involuntary loss of other coverage. An official letter of termination from the insurance carrier must be provided at the time of enrollment in UC SHIP.
- h. For a child covered under a court order, a copy of the document from the court.
- i. For international dependent, a copy of passport must be provided.

No adult Dependent age 26 or older in the military service is eligible.

## **Enrollment Requirements**

All students enrolled under the UC SHIP (University of California Student Health Insurance Plan) in the campuses listed in #1 are eligible to enroll and receive Benefits under this plan.

Coverage for eligible students and their covered Dependents shall start on the Effective Date.

### **Insured Students**

1. The following classes of students are automatically enrolled as insured students.
  - Class 1: All registered students, including domestic and international students, of the following University of California campuses:
    - i. Davis
    - ii. Hastings College of the Law
    - iii. Irvine
    - iv. Los Angeles
    - v. Merced
    - vi. Riverside
    - vii. San Diego

viii. San Francisco

ix. Santa Cruz

- Class 2: All graduate students of the University of California campuses listed in 1. who are registered In-Absentia.
- Class 3: Individuals on the UC San Francisco campus enrolled in the "Scholars and Researchers Health Plan" which encompasses persons who are non-registered students, but are scholars and/or researchers engaged in a program or academic pursuit approved by the campus. Each enrollee must present official approval from a campus representative of the program.

Note: A student may waive enrollment in UC SHIP during the waiver period specified by their home campus by providing proof of coverage that meets medical plan benefit criteria specified by the University. A waiver is effective for one academic year and must be completed again during the waiver period at the start of each Fall quarter or semester of the academic year. Waiver requests for each academic term within a year (Winter or Spring quarter or semester) are also available. Information about waiving enrollment in the plan may be obtained from the student health insurance office on the student's campus.

2. The following classes of individuals may enroll voluntarily as insured students:

- a. All non-registered "Filing Fee" status students of the University of California campuses at Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco and Santa Cruz, who are completing work under the auspices of the University of California but are not attending classes. Students on Filing Fee status may purchase plan coverage for a maximum of one semester or one quarter. These students may enroll by contacting Wells Fargo Insurance Services at 800-853-5899.
- b. All non-registered graduate and undergraduate students at Davis, Merced, and Santa Cruz; Los Angeles graduate students and Riverside undergraduates who are on a Planned Educational Leave (PELP); graduate students at Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco; and Santa Cruz graduate and undergraduate students who are on an approved Leave of Absence (LOA). These students may purchase plan coverage for a maximum of one semester or two quarters and may enroll by contacting Wells Fargo Insurance Services at 800-853-5899.
- c. All former students of the University of California campuses who completed their degree (graduated) during the term immediately preceding the term for which they want to purchase coverage. These individuals may purchase UC SHIP for a maximum of one semester or one quarter. These individuals may enroll by contacting Wells Fargo Insurance Services at 800-853-5899.

NOTE: Non-registered students described in number 2 above may purchase UC SHIP only if they also meet the following criteria:

- a. They were enrolled in UC SHIP during the immediately preceding academic term; or
- b. They show proof of involuntary loss of their other coverage within the prior 30 days.

### **Loss of Eligibility**

Your coverage ends when you are no longer an Eligible Member of the Contractholder or immediately when the Contract ends. Your Spouse loses coverage when your coverage ends or when dependent status is lost. Your dependent children lose coverage when your coverage ends or the last day of the month when dependent status is lost.



## **Continuation of Benefits**

We will not pay for any services/treatment received after your coverage ends. However, we will pay for covered services incurred while you were eligible if the procedures were completed within 31 days of the date your coverage ended.

A dental service is incurred:

- for an appliance (or change to an appliance), at the time the impression is made;
- for a crown, bridge or cast restoration, at the time the tooth or teeth are prepared;
- for root canal therapy, at the time the pulp chamber is opened; and
- for all other dental services, at the time the service is performed or the supply furnished.

## **CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH BENEFITS ARE PROVIDED**

We will pay Benefits for the dental services described in Attachment B. We will pay Benefits only for covered services. The Contract covers several categories of dental services when a Provider provides them and when they are necessary and within the standards of generally accepted dental practice standards. Claims will be processed in accordance with our standard processing policies. The processing policies may be revised at the beginning of a Calendar Year to comply with annual CDT changes made by the American Dental Association and to reflect changes in generally accepted dental practice standards. Delta Dental will provide advance notice of such changes to the Contractholder who will then distribute to Primary Enrollees.

We will use the processing policies that are in effect at the time the claim is processed. We may use dentists (dental consultants) to review treatment plans, diagnostic materials and/or prescribed treatments to determine generally accepted dental practices and to determine if treatment has a favorable prognosis. Limitations and Exclusions will be applied for the period the person is an Enrollee under any Delta Dental program or prior dental care program provided by the Contractholder subject to receipt of such information from the Contractholder or at the time a claim is submitted. Additional eligibility periods, if any, are listed in Attachment A. If you receive dental services from a Provider outside the state of California, the Provider will be paid according to Delta Dental's network payment provisions for said state according to the terms of the Contract.

If a primary dental procedure includes component procedures that are performed at the same time as the primary procedure, the component procedures are considered to be part of the primary procedure for purposes of determining the Benefit payable under the Contract. Even if the Provider bills separately for the primary procedure and each of its component parts, the total Benefit payable for all related charges will be limited to the maximum Benefit payable for the primary procedure.

## **Enrollee Coinsurance**

We will pay a percentage of the Maximum Contract Allowance for covered services, as shown in Attachment A and you are responsible for paying the balance. What you pay is called the enrollee coinsurance ("Enrollee Coinsurance") and is part of your out-of-pocket cost. You pay this even after a Deductible has been met.

The amount of your Enrollee Coinsurance will depend on the type of service and the Provider providing the service (see section titled "Selecting Your Provider"). Providers are required to collect Enrollee Coinsurance for covered services. UC SHIP has chosen to require Enrollee Coinsurances under this program as a method of sharing the costs of providing dental Benefits between the Contractholder and Enrollees. If the Provider discounts, waives or rebates any portion of the Enrollee Coinsurance to you, we will be obligated to provide as Benefits only the applicable percentages of the Provider's fees or allowances reduced by the amount of the fees or allowances that are discounted, waived or rebated.

It is to your advantage to select PPO Providers because they have agreed to accept the Maximum Contract Allowance as payment in full for covered services, which typically results in lower out-of-pocket costs for you. Please refer to the section titled "Selecting Your Provider" for more information.

## **Deductible**

Your dental plan features a Deductible. This is an amount you must pay out-of-pocket before Benefits are paid. The Deductible amounts are listed in Attachment A. Deductibles apply to all benefits unless otherwise noted. Only the Provider's fees you pay for covered Benefits will count toward the Deductible.

## Maximum Amount

Most dental plans have a Maximum Amount. A Maximum Amount is the maximum dollar amount we will pay toward the cost of dental care. You are responsible for paying costs above this amount. The Maximum Amount payable is shown in Attachment A. Maximums may apply on a yearly basis, a per services basis, or a lifetime basis.

## Pre-Treatment Estimate

Pre-Treatment Estimate requests are not required; however, your Provider may file a Claim Form before beginning treatment, showing the services to be provided to you. We will estimate the amount of Benefits payable under the Contract for the listed services. By asking your Provider for a Pre-Treatment Estimate from us before you agree to receive any prescribed treatment, you will have an estimate up front of what we will pay and the difference you will need to pay. The Benefits will be processed according to the terms of the Contract when the treatment is actually performed. Pre-Treatment Estimates are valid for 365 days unless other services are received after the date of the Pre-Treatment Estimate, or until an earlier occurrence of any one of the following events:

- the date the Contract terminates;
- the date Benefits under the Contract are amended if the services in the Pre-Treatment Estimate are part of the amendment;
- the date your coverage ends; or
- the date the Provider's agreement with Delta Dental ends.

A Pre-Treatment Estimate does not guarantee payment. It is an estimate of the amount we will pay if you are enrolled and meet all the requirements of the program at the time the treatment you have planned is completed and may not take into account any Deductibles, so please remember to figure in your Deductible if necessary.

## Coordination of Benefits

This plan is secondary to any other policy, except Medicare/Medicaid. Medicare/Medicaid is always the payor of last resort.

## SELECTING YOUR PROVIDER

### *Free Choice of Provider*

You may see any Provider for your covered treatment whether the Provider is a PPO Provider, Premier Provider or a Non-Delta Dental Provider. This plan is a PPO plan and the greatest benefits – including out-of-pocket savings – occur when you choose a PPO Provider. To take full advantage of your Benefits, we highly recommend you verify a Provider's participation status within a Delta Dental network with your dental office before each appointment. Review this section for an explanation of Delta Dental payment procedures to understand the method of payments applicable to your Provider selection and how that may impact your out-of-pocket costs.

### *Locating a PPO Provider*

You may access information through our website at [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com). You may also call our Customer Service Center and one of our representatives will assist you. We can provide you with information regarding a Provider's network participation, specialty and office location.

### *Choosing a PPO Provider*

A PPO Provider potentially allows the greatest reduction in Enrollees' out-of-pocket expenses since this select group of Providers will provide dental Benefits at a charge that has been contractually agreed upon. Payment for covered services performed by a PPO Provider is based on the Maximum Contract Allowance.

### *Choosing a Premier Provider*

A Premier Provider is a Delta Dental Provider who has not agreed to the features of the PPO plan. Payment for covered services performed by a Premier Provider is based on the Maximum Contract Allowance. The amount charged by a Premier Provider may be above that accepted by PPO Providers but no more than the Delta Dental Premier Contracted Fee.

### *Choosing a Non-Delta Dental Provider*

If a Provider is a Non-Delta Dental Provider, the amount charged to Enrollees may be above that accepted by PPO or Premier Providers, and Enrollees will be responsible for balance billed amounts. Payment for covered services performed by a Non-Delta Dental Provider is based on the Maximum Contract Allowance, and the Enrollee may be balance billed up to the Provider's Submitted Fee.

### *Additional Obligations of PPO and Premier Providers*

- The PPO Provider or Premier Provider must accept assignment of Benefits, meaning these Providers will be paid directly by Delta Dental after satisfaction of the Deductible and Enrollee Coinsurance. The Enrollee does not have to pay all the dental charges while at the dental office and then submit the claim for reimbursement.
- The PPO Provider or Premier Provider will complete the dental Claim Form and submit it to Delta Dental for reimbursement.
- PPO and Premier Providers accept contracted fees as payment in full for covered services and will not balance bill if there is a difference between Submitted Fees and contracted fees.

### **How to Submit a Claim**

Claims for Benefits must be filed on a standard Claim Form that is available in most dental offices. PPO and Premier Providers will fill out and submit your claims paperwork for you. Some Non-Delta Dental Providers may also provide this service upon your request. If you receive services from a Non-Delta Dental Provider who does not provide this service, you can submit your own claim directly to us. Please refer to the section titled "Notice of Claim Form" for more information.

Your dental office should be able to assist you in filling out the Claim Form. Fill out the Claim Form completely and send it to:

DELTA DENTAL OF CALIFORNIA  
P.O. Box 997330  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7339

### **Payment Guidelines**

We do not pay PPO or Premier Providers any incentive as an inducement to deny, reduce, limit or delay any appropriate service.

If you or your Provider files a claim for services more than 12 months after the date you received the services, payment may be denied. If the services were received from a Non-Delta Dental Provider, you are still responsible for the full cost. If the payment is denied because your PPO Provider failed to submit the claim on time, you may not be responsible for that payment. However, if you did not tell your PPO Provider that you were covered under a Delta Dental Policy at the time you received the service, you may be responsible for the cost of that service.

If you have any questions about any dental charges, processing policies and/or how your claim is paid, please contact us.

### **Provider Relationships**

Enrollees and Delta Dental agree to permit and encourage the professional relationship between Provider and Enrollee to be maintained without interference. Any PPO, Premier or Non-Delta Dental Provider, including any Provider or member associated with or employed by them, who provides dental services to an Enrollee does so as an independent contractor and shall be solely responsible for dental advice and for performance of dental services, or lack thereof, to the Enrollee.

### **CLAIMS APPEAL**

We will notify you and your Provider if Benefits are denied for services submitted on a Claim Form, in whole or in part, stating the reason(s) for denial. You have at least 180 days after receiving a notice of denial to request an appeal or grievance by writing to us giving reasons why you believe the denial was wrong. You and your Provider may also ask Delta Dental to examine any additional information provided that may support the appeal or grievance.

Send your appeal or grievance to us at the address shown below:

DELTA DENTAL OF CALIFORNIA  
P.O. Box 997330  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7339

We will send you a written acknowledgment within 5 days upon receipt of the appeal or grievance. We will make a full and fair review and may ask for more documents during this review if needed. The review will take into account all comments, documents, records or other information, regardless of whether such information was submitted or considered initially. If the review is of a denial based in whole or in part on lack of dental necessity, experimental treatment or clinical judgment in applying the terms of the Contract, we shall consult with a dentist who has appropriate training and experience. The review will be conducted for us by a person who is neither the individual who made the claim denial that is subject to the review, nor the subordinate of such individual. We will send the Enrollee a decision within 30 days after receipt of the Enrollee's appeal or grievance.

If the Enrollee believes he/she needs further review of their appeal or grievance, he/she may contact his/her state regulatory agency if applicable. If the group health plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Enrollee may contact the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) for further review of the claim or if the Enrollee has questions about the rights under ERISA. The Enrollee may also bring a civil action under section 502(a) of ERISA. The address of the U.S. Department of Labor is: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20210.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Non-Discrimination**

Delta Dental complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Delta Dental does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Delta Dental:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact Delta Dental's Customer Service Center at 800-471-0287.

If you believe that Delta Dental has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance electronically online, over the phone with a Customer Service representative, or by mail.

Delta Dental  
P.O. Box 997330  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7330  
Telephone Number: 800-471-0287  
Website Address: [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com)

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

### **Clinical Examination**

Before approving a claim, we will be entitled to receive, to such extent as may be lawful, from any attending or examining Provider, or from hospitals in which a Provider's care is provided, such information and records relating to attendance to or examination of, or treatment provided to, you as may be required to administer the claim, or have you be examined by a dental consultant retained by us at our expense, in or near your community or residence. We will in every case hold such information and records confidential.

### **Notice of Claim Form**

We will give you or your Provider, on request, a Claim Form to make claim for Benefits. To make a claim, the form should be completed and signed by the Provider who performed the services and by the patient (or the parent or guardian if the patient is a minor) and submitted to us at the address above.

If the form is not furnished by us within 15 days after requested by you or your Provider, the requirements for proof of loss set forth in the next paragraph will be deemed to have been complied with upon the submission to us, within the time established in said paragraph for filing proofs of loss, of written proof covering the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which claim is made. You or your Provider may download a Claim Form from our website.

### **Written Notice of Claim/Proof of Loss**

We must be given written proof of loss within 12 months after the date of the loss. If it is not reasonably possible to give written proof in the time required, the claim will not be reduced or denied solely for this reason, provided proof is filed as soon as reasonably possible. In any event, proof of loss must be given no later than one year from such time (unless the claimant was legally incapacitated).

All written proof of loss must be given to us within 12 months of the termination of the Contract.

### **Time of Payment**

Claims payable under the Contract for any loss other than loss for which the Contract provides any periodic payment will be processed no later than 30 days after written proof of loss is received. We will notify you and your Provider of any additional information needed to process the claim within this 30 day period.

### **To Whom Benefits Are Paid**

It is not required that the service be provided by a specific dentist. Payment for services provided by a PPO or Premier Provider will be made directly to the dentist. Any other payments provided by the Contract will be made to you. All Benefits not paid to the Provider will be payable to you, the Primary Enrollee, or Dependent Enrollee, or to your estate, or to an alternate recipient as directed by court order, except that if the person is a minor or otherwise not competent to give a valid release, Benefits may be payable to his or her parent, guardian or other person actually supporting him or her.

### **Misstatements on Application: Effect**

In the absence of fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact in applying for or procuring coverage under the Contract, all statements made by you or the Contractholder will be deemed representations and not warranties. No such statement will be used in defense to a claim under the Contract, unless it is contained in a written application.

Any misrepresentation, omission, concealment of fact or incorrect statement which is material to the acceptance of risk may prevent recovery if, had the true facts been known to us, we would not in good faith have issued the contract at the same coverage rate. If any misstatement would materially affect the rates, we reserve the right to adjust the coverage rate to reflect your actual circumstances at enrollment.

### **Legal Actions**

No action at law or in equity will be brought to recover on the Contract prior to expiration of 60 days after proof of loss has been filed in accordance with requirements of the Contract, nor will an action be brought at all unless brought within three (3) years from expiration of the time within which proof of loss is required by the Contract.

**Attachment A**  
**Deductibles, Maximums and Contract Benefit Levels**

<b>Deductibles &amp; Maximums</b>		
	<b>Delta Dental PPO Providers Providers</b>	<b>Delta Dental Premier and Non-Delta Dental Providers</b>
<b>Annual Deductible</b>	\$25 per Enrollee each Contract Year	\$50 per Enrollee each Contract Year
Deductibles waived for	Diagnostic & Preventive Services	
	If an Enrollee switches between types of Providers during a Contract Year, the maximum Deductible you will be responsible for is \$50 per Enrollee.	
<b>Annual Maximum</b>	\$1,000 per Enrollee per Contract Year	\$750 per Enrollee per Contract Year
	If an Enrollee switches among types of Providers during a Contract Year the maximum amount payable for Benefits will be adjusted accordingly. The maximum amount payable each year for all services received from all Providers will not exceed the maximum amount payable for PPO Providers \$1,000. However, if only Premier and Non-Delta Dental Providers are used, the maximum will not exceed \$750. If an Enrollee meets the Contract Year maximum for Premier and Non-Delta Dental Providers, an Enrollee may still utilize a PPO Provider for the balance of the applicable maximum.	

<b>Contract Benefit Levels</b>		
<b>Dental Service Category</b>	<b>Delta Dental PPO Providers Providers<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Delta Dental Premier and Non-Delta Dental Providers<sup>†</sup></b>
Delta Dental will pay or otherwise discharge the Contract Benefit Level shown below for the following services:		
Diagnostic and Preventive Services	100%	80%
Basic Services	80%	60%
Major Services	70%	40%

<sup>†</sup> Reimbursement is based on PPO Contracted Fees for PPO Providers, Premier Contracted Fees for Premier Providers and Program Allowance for Non-Delta Dental Providers.

## Attachment B Services, Limitations and Exclusions

### **Description of Dental Services**

Delta Dental will pay or otherwise discharge the Contract Benefit Level shown in Attachment A for the following services:

- **Diagnostic and Preventive Services**

- (1) Diagnostic: procedures to aid the Provider in determining required dental treatment.
- (2) Preventive: cleaning (including scaling in the presence of generalized moderate or severe gingival inflammation-full mouth, which is considered to be a Diagnostic and Preventive Benefit, and periodontal maintenance, which is considered to be a Basic Benefit for payment purposes), topical application of fluoride solutions, space maintainers.
- (3) Palliative: emergency treatment to relieve pain.
- (4) Specialist Consultations: opinion or advice requested by a general dentist.

- **Basic Services**

- (1) Oral Surgery: extractions and other surgical procedures (including pre- and post-operative care).
- (2) General Anesthesia or IV Sedation: when administered by a Provider for covered Oral Surgery or selected endodontic and periodontal surgical procedures.
- (3) Endodontics: treatment of diseases and injuries of the tooth pulp.
- (4) Periodontics: treatment of gums and bones supporting teeth.
- (5) Sealants: topically applied acrylic, plastic or composite materials used to seal developmental grooves and pits in permanent molars for the purpose of preventing decay.
- (6) Restorative: amalgam and resin-based composite restorations (fillings) and prefabricated crowns for treatment of carious lesions (visible destruction of hard tooth structure resulting from the process of decay).
- (7) Nightguard: nightguard for bruxism

- **Major Services**

- (1) Crowns and Inlays/Onlays: treatment of carious lesions (visible decay of the hard tooth structure) when teeth cannot be restored with amalgam or resin-based composites.
- (2) Prosthodontics: procedures for construction of fixed bridges, partial or complete dentures and the repair of fixed bridges; implant surgical placement and removal; and for implant supported prosthetics, including implant repair and recementation.
- (3) Denture Repairs: repair to partial or complete dentures, including rebase procedures and relining.

- **Note on additional Benefits during pregnancy**

When an Enrollee is pregnant, Delta Dental will pay for additional services to help improve the oral health of the Enrollee during the pregnancy. The additional services each 12 month period while the Enrollee is covered under the Contract include one (1) additional oral exam and either one (1) additional routine cleaning; one (1) additional periodontal scaling and root planing per quadrant; or one (1) additional periodontal maintenance procedure. Written confirmation of the pregnancy must be provided by the Enrollee or her Provider when the claim is submitted.

### **Limitations**

- (1) Services that are more expensive than the form of treatment customarily provided under accepted dental practice standards are called "Optional Services." Optional Services also include the use of specialized techniques instead of standard procedures.

Examples of Optional Services:

- a) a crown where a filling would restore the tooth;
- b) an inlay/onlay instead of an amalgam restoration;
- c) porcelain, resin or similar materials for crowns placed on a maxillary second or third molar, or on any mandibular molar (an allowance will be made for a porcelain fused to high noble metal crown); or
- d) an overdenture instead of denture.

If an Enrollee receives Optional Services, an alternate Benefit will be allowed, which means Delta Dental will base Benefits on the lower cost of the customary service or standard practice instead of on the higher cost of the Optional Service. The Enrollee will be responsible for the difference between the higher cost of the Optional Service and the lower cost of the customary service or standard procedure.

- (2) Exam and cleaning limitations:
- a) Delta Dental will pay for oral examinations and cleanings (including scaling in the presence of generalized moderate or severe gingival inflammation-full mouth, periodontal maintenance in the presence of inflamed gums or any combination thereof) no more than twice in a Contract Year.
  - b) A full mouth debridement is allowed once in a lifetime when the Enrollee has no history of prophylaxis, scaling and root planing, periodontal surgery or periodontal maintenance procedures within three (3) years. When allowed a full mouth debridement counts toward the maintenance frequency in the year provided.
  - c) Note that periodontal maintenance and Procedure Codes that include periodontal maintenance are covered as a Basic Benefit and that routine cleanings (including scaling in presence of generalized moderate or severe gingival inflammation-full mouth) and full mouth debridement are covered as a Diagnostic and Preventive Benefit. See note on additional Benefits during pregnancy.
  - d) Caries risk assessments are allowed once in 36 months.
- (3) X-ray limitations:
- a) Delta Dental will limit the total reimbursable amount to the Provider's Accepted Fee for a complete intraoral series when the fees for any combination of intraoral x-rays in a single treatment series meet or exceed the Accepted Fee for a complete intraoral series.
  - b) When a panoramic film is submitted with supplemental film(s), Delta Dental will limit the total reimbursable amount to the Provider's Accepted Fee for a complete intraoral series.
  - c) If a panoramic film is taken in conjunction with an intraoral complete series, Delta Dental considers the panoramic film to be included in the complete series.
  - d) A complete intraoral series and panoramic film are each limited to once every 60 months.
  - e) Bitewing x-rays are limited to two (2) times in a Contract Year when provided to Enrollees under age 18 and one (1) time in a Contract Year for Enrollees age 18 and over. Bitewings of any type are disallowed within 12 months of a full mouth series unless warranted by special circumstances.
- (4) Topical application of fluoride solutions is limited to twice in a contract year.
- (5) Space maintainer limitations:
- a) Space maintainers are limited to the initial appliance and are a Benefit for an Enrollee to age 14. However, a distal shoe space maintainer-fixed-unilateral is limited to children eight (8) and younger. A separate/additional space maintainer can be allowed after the removal of a unilateral distal shoe.
  - b) Recementation of space maintainer is limited to once per lifetime.
  - c) The removal of a fixed space maintainer is considered to be included in the fee for the space maintainer; however, an exception is made if the removal is performed by a different Provider/Provider's office.
- (6) Pulp vitality tests are allowed once per day when definitive treatment is not performed.
- (7) Oral/facial photographic images and diagnostic casts are covered once per 36 months in conjunction with Orthodontic Services only when Orthodontic Services are a covered benefit. If Orthodontic Services are covered, see Limitations as age limits may apply. However, 3D x-rays are not a covered benefit.



- (8) Sealants are limited as follows:
  - a) to permanent first molars through age eight (8) and to permanent second molars through age 15 if they are without caries (decay) or restorations on the occlusal surface.
  - b) repair or replacement of a Sealant on any tooth within 24 months of its application is included in the fee for the original placement.
- (9) Specialist Consultations are limited to twice in a 12 month period, screenings of patients and assessments of patients are limited to once per lifetime per Provider and count toward the oral exam frequency.
- (10) Delta Dental will not cover replacement of an amalgam or resin-based composite restorations (fillings) or prefabricated crowns within 24 months of treatment if the service is provided by the same Provider/Provider office. Replacement restorations within 24 months are included in the fee for the original restoration.
- (11) Protective restorations (sedative fillings) are allowed once per tooth every 90 days when definitive treatment is not performed on the same date of service.
- (12) Prefabricated porcelain/ceramic crowns are allowed on primary teeth once in a 24-month period and prefabricated stainless steel crowns are allowed on primary teeth up to age 16.
- (13) Therapeutic pulpotomy is limited to once in a 60-month period for baby (deciduous) teeth only and is considered palliative treatment for permanent teeth.
- (14) Pulpal therapy (resorbable filling) are limited to once in a 60-month period. Retreatment of root canal therapy by the same Provider/Provider office within 24 months is considered part of the original procedure.
- (15) Apexification is only benefited on permanent teeth with incomplete root canal development or for the repair of a perforation. Apexification visits have a lifetime limit per tooth of two (2) initial visits, two (2) interim visits and two (2) final visits to age 19.
- (16) Retreatment of apical surgery by the same Provider/Provider office within 24 months is considered part of the original procedure.
- (17) Palliative treatment is limited to three (3) visits in a six (6)-month period and the fee includes all treatment provided other than required x-rays or select Diagnostic procedures.
- (18) Periodontal limitations:
  - a) Benefits for periodontal scaling and root planing in the same quadrant are limited to once in every 24-month period for an Enrollee age 15 and older. See note on additional Benefits during pregnancy. No more than two (2) quadrants of scaling and root planing will be covered on the same date of service.
  - b) Periodontal surgery in the same quadrant is limited to once in every 24-month period and includes any surgical re-entry or scaling and root planing performed within 24-months by the same Provider/Provider office.
  - c) Periodontal services, including bone replacement grafts, guided tissue regeneration, graft procedures and biological materials to aid in soft and osseous tissue regeneration are only covered for the treatment of natural teeth and are not covered when submitted in conjunction with extractions, periradicular surgery, ridge augmentation or implants. Guided tissue regenerations and/or bone grafts are not benefited in conjunction with soft tissue grafts in the same surgical area.
  - d) Periodontal surgery is subject to a 30 day wait following periodontal scaling and root planing in the same quadrant.
  - e) Cleanings (regular and periodontal) and full mouth debridement are subject to a 30 day wait following periodontal scaling and root planing if performed by the same Provider office.
  - f) When implant procedures are a covered benefit, scaling and debridement in the presence of inflammation or mucositis of a single implant, including cleaning of the implant surfaces, without flap entry and closure is covered as a Basic Service and are limited to once in a 24-month period.
- (19) Oral Surgery services are covered once in a lifetime except removal of cysts and lesions and incision and drainage procedures, which are covered once in the same day.
- (20) The following Oral Surgery procedure is limited to age 19 (or orthodontic limiting age): transeptal fiberotomy/supra crestal fiberotomy, by report.

- (21) The following Oral Surgery procedures are limited to age 19 (or orthodontic limiting age) provided Orthodontic Services are covered: surgical access of an unerupted tooth, placement of device to facilitate eruption of impacted tooth, and surgical repositioning of teeth.
- (22) Crowns and Inlays/Onlays are limited to Enrollees age 12 and older and are covered not more often than once in any 60-month period except when Delta Dental determines the existing Crown or Inlay/Onlay is not satisfactory and cannot be made satisfactory because the tooth involved has experienced extensive loss or changes to tooth structure or supporting tissues.
- (23) Core buildup, including any pins, is covered not more than once in any 60-month period.
- (24) Post and core services are covered not more than once in any 60-month year period.
- (25) Crown repairs are covered not more than once in a six (6)-month period. Crowns, inlays/onlays and fixed bridges include repairs for 24 months following installation.
- (26) Denture Repairs are covered not more than once in any 24-month period except for fixed Denture Repairs which are covered not more than once in any six (6)-month period.
- (27) Prosthodontic appliances implants and/or implant supported prosthetics that were provided under any Delta Dental program will be replaced only after 60 months have passed, except when Delta Dental determines that there is such extensive loss of remaining teeth or change in supporting tissue that the existing fixed bridge or denture cannot be made satisfactory. Fixed prosthodontic appliances are limited to Enrollees age 16 and older. Replacement of a prosthodontic appliance and/or implant supported prosthesis not provided under a Delta Dental program will be made if Delta Dental determines it is unsatisfactory and cannot be made satisfactory. Diagnostic and treatment facilitating aids for implants are considered a part of, and included in, the fees for the definitive treatment. Delta Dental's payment for implant removal is limited to one (1) for each implant during the Enrollee's lifetime whether provided under Delta Dental or any other dental care plan.
- (28) When a posterior fixed bridge and a removable partial denture are placed in the same arch in the same treatment episode, only the partial denture will be a Benefit.
- (29) Recementation of Crowns, Inlays/Onlays or bridges is included in the fee for the Crown, Inlay/Onlay or bridge when performed by the same Provider/Provider office within six (6) months of the initial placement. After six (6) months, payment will be limited to one (1) recementation in a lifetime by the same Provider/Provider office.
- (30) Delta Dental limits payment for dentures to a standard partial or complete denture (Enrollee Coinsurances apply). A standard denture means a removable appliance to replace missing natural, permanent teeth that is made from acceptable materials by conventional means and includes routine post delivery care including any adjustments and relines for the first six (6) months after placement.
  - a) Denture rebase is limited to one (1) per arch in a 24-month period and includes any relining and adjustments for six (6) months following placement.
  - b) Dentures, removable partial dentures and relines include adjustments for six (6) months following installation. After the initial six (6) months of an adjustment or reline, adjustments are limited to once per arch in a six (6)-month period and relining is limited to one (1) per arch in a six (6)-month period.
  - c) Tissue conditioning is limited to two (2) per arch in a 12-month period. However, tissue conditioning is not allowed as a separate Benefit when performed on the same day as a denture, reline or rebase service.
  - d) Recementation of fixed partial dentures is limited to once in a six (6)-month period.

**Exclusions**

**Delta Dental does not pay Benefits for:**

- (1) treatment of injuries or illness covered by workers' compensation or employers' liability laws; services received without cost from any federal, state or local agency, unless this exclusion is prohibited by law, except as provided in Section 1373(a) of the California Health and Safety Code.
- (2) cosmetic surgery or procedures for purely cosmetic reasons.
- (3) maxillofacial prosthetics.

- (4) provisional and/or temporary restorations (except an interim removable partial denture to replace extracted anterior permanent teeth during the healing period for children 16 years of age or under). Provisional and/or temporary restorations are not separately payable procedures and are included in the fee for completed service.
- (5) services for congenital (hereditary) or developmental (following birth) malformations, including but not limited to cleft palate, upper and lower jaw malformations, enamel hypoplasia (lack of development), fluorosis (a type of discoloration of the teeth) and anodontia (congenitally missing teeth), except those services provided to newborn children for medically diagnosed congenital defects or birth abnormalities.
- (6) treatment to stabilize teeth, treatment to restore tooth structure lost from wear, erosion, or abrasion or treatment to rebuild or maintain chewing surfaces due to teeth out of alignment or occlusion. Examples include but are not limited to: equilibration, periodontal splinting, complete occlusal adjustments and abfraction.
- (7) any Single Procedure provided prior to the date the Enrollee became eligible for services under this plan.
- (8) prescribed drugs, medication, pain killers, antimicrobial agents, or experimental/investigational procedures.
- (9) charges for anesthesia, other than General Anesthesia and IV Sedation administered by a Provider in connection with covered Oral Surgery or selected Endodontic and Periodontal surgical procedures. Local anesthesia and regional/or trigeminal bloc anesthesia are not separately payable procedures.
- (10) extraoral grafts (grafting of tissues from outside the mouth to oral tissues).
- (11) laboratory processed crowns for Enrollees under age 12.
- (12) fixed bridges and removable partials for Enrollees under age 16.
- (13) interim implants and endodontic endosseous implant.
- (14) indirectly fabricated resin-based Inlays/Onlays.
- (15) charges by any hospital or other surgical or treatment facility and any additional fees charged by the Provider for treatment in any such facility.
- (16) treatment by someone other than a Provider or a person who by law may work under a Provider's direct supervision.
- (17) charges incurred for oral hygiene instruction, a plaque control program, preventive control programs including home care times, dietary instruction, x-ray duplications, cancer screening, or tobacco counseling.
- (18) dental practice administrative services including, but not limited to, preparation of claims, any non-treatment phase of dentistry such as provision of an antiseptic environment, sterilization of equipment or infection control, or any ancillary materials used during the routine course of providing treatment such as cotton swabs, gauze, bibs, masks or relaxation techniques such as music.
- (19) procedures having a questionable prognosis based on a dental consultant's professional review of the submitted documentation.
- (20) any tax imposed (or incurred) by a government, state or other entity, in connection with any fees charged for Benefits provided under the Contract, will be the responsibility of the Enrollee and not a covered Benefit.
- (21) Deductibles, amounts over plan maximums and/or any service not covered under the dental plan.
- (22) services covered under the dental plan but exceed Benefit limitations or are not in accordance with processing policies in effect at the time the claim is processed.
- (23) services for Orthodontic treatment (treatment of malocclusion of teeth and/or jaws) except as provided under the Orthodontic Services section, if applicable.

- (24) services for any disturbance of the Temporomandibular (jaw) Joints (TMJ) or associated musculature, nerves and other tissues) except as provided under the TMJ Benefit section, if applicable.
- (25) Missed and/or cancelled appointments.
- (26) actions taken to schedule and assure compliance with patient appointments are inclusive with office operations and are not a separately payable service.
- (27) the fees for care coordination are considered inclusive in overall patient management and are not a separately payable service.
- (28) dental case management motivational interviewing and patient education to improve oral health literacy.
- (29) non-ionizing diagnostic procedure capable of quantifying, monitoring and recording changes in structure of enamel, dentin, and cementum.
- (30) extra-oral – 2D projection radiographic image and extra-oral posterior dental radiographic image.