

*Combined Evidence of Coverage and Disclosure Form*



## **USING THIS BOOKLET**

This booklet has been written with you in mind. It is designed to help you make the most of your Delta Dental plan. This combined Evidence of Coverage/Disclosure form discloses the terms and conditions of your coverage.

The Combined Evidence of Coverage/Disclosure form should be read completely and carefully and individuals with special health care needs should read carefully those sections that apply to them (see CHOICE OF DENTISTS AND PROVIDERS section). You have a right to review it prior to your enrollment.

Please read the "DEFINITIONS" section. It will explain to you any words that have special or technical meanings under your group Contract. A copy of the Contract will be furnished upon request.

Please read this summary of your dental Benefits carefully. Keep in mind that YOU means the ENROLLEES whom Delta Dental covers. WE, US and OUR always refers to Delta Dental of California (Delta Dental).

If you have any questions about your coverage that are not answered here, please check with your Trust Fund, or with Delta Dental.

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

For claims, eligibility and benefits inquiries, or additional information, call Delta Dental's Customer Service department toll-free at: 888-335-8227 or contact us on our website: [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com).

A STATEMENT DESCRIBING OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRESERVING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL RECORDS IS AVAILABLE AND WILL BE FURNISHED TO YOU UPON REQUEST.

**This Combined Evidence of Coverage/Disclosure Form constitutes only a summary of the dental plan. The dental Contract must be consulted to determine the exact terms and conditions of coverage.**

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## DEFINITIONS

Certain words that you will see in this booklet have specific meanings. These definitions should make your dental plan easier to understand.

**Benefits** - those dental services available under the Contract and which are described in this booklet.

**Contract** - the written agreement between your employer or sponsoring group and Delta Dental to provide dental Benefits. The Contract, together with this booklet, forms the terms and conditions of the Benefits you are provided.

**Covered Services** - those dental services to which Delta Dental will apply Benefit payments, according to the Contract.

**Delta Dental Dentist** - a Dentist who has signed an agreement with Delta Dental or a Participating Plan, agreeing to provide services under the terms and conditions established by Delta Dental or the Participating Plan.

**Delta Dental PPO<sup>SM</sup> Dentist** - a Dentist with whom Delta Dental has a written agreement to provide services at the in-network level for Enrollees in this Delta Dental PPO Plan.

**Dependent** - a Primary Enrollee's Dependent who is eligible to enroll for Benefits in accordance with the conditions of eligibility outlined in this booklet.

**Effective Date** - the date this plan starts.

**Enrollee** - A Primary Enrollee or Dependent enrolled to receive Benefits or a person who chooses to pay for OPTIONAL CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE.

**Maximum** - the greatest dollar amount Delta Dental will pay for covered procedures in any calendar year and lifetime for Orthodontic Benefits.

**Participating Employer** - means a group or an employer who participates in the group dental program established by Carpenters Health & Welfare Trust Fund for California.

**Participating Plan** - Delta Dental and any other member of the Delta Dental Plans Association with whom Delta Dental contracts for assistance in administering your Benefits.

**Primary Enrollee** - an active participant who is eligible to enroll for Benefits in accordance with the conditions of eligibility outlined in the Summary Plan Description of the Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California.

**Single Procedure** - a dental procedure to which a separate Procedure Number has been assigned by the American Dental Association in the current version of Common Dental Terminology (CDT).

**Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR)** -

A Usual fee is the amount which an individual dentist regularly charges and receives for a given service or the fee actually charged, whichever is less.

A Customary fee is within the range of usual fees charged and received for a particular service by dentists of similar training in the same geographic area.

A Reasonable fee schedule is reasonable if it is Usual and Customary. Additionally, a specific fee to a specific Enrollee is reasonable if it is justifiable considering special circumstances, or extraordinary difficulty, of the case in question.

## **WHO IS COVERED?**

All active eligible participants of the Carpenters Health & Welfare Trust Fund for California and their eligible Dependents will become Enrollees in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Trust Fund.

## **PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY AND TERMINATION OF COVERAGE**

Please refer to the Summary Plan Description of the Carpenters Health & Welfare Trust Fund for California for complete information on eligibility and termination of coverage.

## **WHO ARE YOUR ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS?**

- Your legal spouse or qualified domestic partner;
- Your natural, adopted or stepchildren until their 26th birthday;
- Any unmarried children for whom you have been appointed legal guardian until their 19th birthday provided they are considered your dependent children for federal income tax purposes;
- Any unmarried children of your domestic partner until their 19th birthday provided they are primarily dependent upon you for financial support;
- Your unmarried legal guardianship child or child of your domestic partner who is 19 but less than 23 years of age if enrolled full-time in an accredited school, college or university;
- An unmarried dependent child may continue eligibility beyond the limiting age if:
  - a) He or she is incapable of self-sustaining employment because of a physically or mentally disabling injury, illness or condition that began prior to reaching the limiting age and while eligible as a dependent under the Trust Fund;
  - b) He or she is chiefly dependent on the eligible employee for support; and
  - c) Proof of Dependent's disability is provided within 60 days of request. Such requests will not be made more than once a year following a two year period after this Dependent reaches the limiting age. Eligibility will continue as long as the Dependent relies on the eligible employee for support because of a physically or mentally disabling injury, illness or condition that began before he or she reached the limiting age.

"Dependent children" also means stepchildren, adopted children, children of a domestic partner, children placed for adoption and children for whom you are appointed legal guardian.

A domestic partnership will exist between two people (regardless of their gender) and each of them will be the domestic partner of the other if they both complete, sign and file with the Fund Office an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership that is approved by the Fund Office. A domestic partner is subject to the same terms and conditions as any other Dependent enrolled under this plan.

Dependent coverage is also extended to any child who is recognized under a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO).

## **ENROLLING YOUR DEPENDENTS**

Your Dependents are eligible the later of when you first become eligible or on the first day they meet the definition of a Dependents.

## WHEN YOU ARE NO LONGER COVERED

1. Your dental coverage will end on the last day of the month in which your eligibility under the Trust Fund terminates, unless you qualify for and pay for **OPTIONAL CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE (COBRA)**. Your Dependents' coverage ends when yours does, or as soon as they are no longer Dependents, unless they choose to pay for **OPTIONAL CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE (COBRA)**.
2. When the Contract between Delta Dental and the Trust is discontinued or canceled, your coverage ends immediately.

## CANCELING THIS PLAN

Delta Dental may cancel this plan only on an anniversary date (period after the plan first takes effect or at the end of each renewal period thereafter), or any time if payments required by the Contract are not made to Delta Dental.

If the Contract is terminated for any cause, Delta Dental is not required to predetermine services beyond the termination date or to pay for services provided after the termination date, except for Single Procedures begun while the Contract was in effect which are otherwise Benefits under the Contract.

If this plan is canceled, you and your Dependents have no right to renewal or reinstatement of your Benefits.

## YOUR BENEFITS

Your dental plan covers several categories of Benefits, when the services are provided by a licensed dentist, and when they are necessary and customary under the generally accepted standards of dental practice.

**IMPORTANT:** If you opt to receive dental services that are not covered services under this plan, your Delta Dental Dentist may charge you his or her Usual and Customary rate for those services. Prior to providing you dental services that are not a covered Benefit, your dentist should provide you with a treatment plan that includes each anticipated service to be provided and the estimated cost of each service (see PREDETERMINATIONS). If you would like more information about dental coverage options, you may call our Customer Service department at 888-335-8227. To fully understand your coverage, you may wish to carefully review this Evidence of Coverage document.

Delta Dental will provide payment for these services at the percentage indicated up to a Maximum of \$2,500 for services provided by a **Delta Dental PPO Dentist**, reduced to \$2,000 for services provided by a non-Delta Dental PPO Dentist, for each Enrollee in each calendar year. These are not separate maximums. Benefits paid for services provided by a non-Delta Dental PPO Dentist will count toward the Maximum for a **Delta Dental PPO Dentist**, and Benefits paid for a **Delta Dental PPO Dentist** will count toward the Maximum for a non-Delta Dental PPO Dentist.

The lifetime Maximum amount for Night Guards is \$175 per person.

Payment for Orthodontic Benefits for a dependent child to age 19 is limited to a lifetime Maximum of \$1,500.

An agreement between the Trust and Delta Dental is required to change Benefits during the term of the Contract.

The following Benefits are limited to the applicable percentages of dentist's fees or allowances specified below. You are required to pay the balance of any such fee or allowance, known as the "Enrollee co-payment." If the dentist discounts, waives or rebates any portion of the Enrollee co-payment to the Enrollee, Delta Dental only provides as Benefits the applicable allowances reduced by the amount that such fees or allowances are discounted, waived or rebated.

**I. DIAGNOSTIC AND PREVENTIVE BENEFITS**  
**100% if provided by a Delta Dental PPO Dentist**  
**100% if provided by other dentists**

Diagnostic - oral examinations; x-rays; examination of biopsied tissue; palliative (emergency) treatment of dental pain; specialist consultation

Preventive - prophylaxis (cleaning); fluoride treatment; space maintainers

**Note on additional Benefits during pregnancy.** If you are pregnant, Delta Dental will pay for additional services to help improve your oral health during pregnancy. The additional services each calendar year while you are eligible in this Delta Dental plan include: one additional oral examination and either one additional routine cleaning or one additional periodontal scaling and root planing per quadrant. Written confirmation of your pregnancy must be provided by you or your dentist when the claim is submitted.

**II. BASIC BENEFITS**  
**80% if provided by a Delta Dental PPO Dentist**  
**50% if provided by other dentists**

Oral surgery - extractions and certain other surgical procedures, including pre- and post-operative care

Restorative - amalgam, silicate or composite (resin) restorations (fillings) for treatment of carious lesions (visible destruction of hard tooth structure resulting from the process of dental decay)

Endodontic - treatment of the tooth pulp

Periodontic - treatment of gums and bones that support the teeth

Sealants - topically applied acrylic, plastic or composite material used to seal developmental grooves and pits in teeth for the purpose of preventing dental decay

Adjunctive General Services - general anesthesia; I.V. sedation; office visit for observation; office visit after regularly scheduled hours; therapeutic drug injection; treatment of post-surgical complications (unusual circumstances); limited occlusal adjustment

Night Guards - intraoral removable appliances provided for the treatment of harmful oral habits associated with periodontal disease

**III. CROWNS, INLAYS, ONLAYS AND CAST RESTORATION BENEFITS**  
**80% if provided by a Delta Dental PPO Dentist**  
**50% if provided by other dentists**

Crowns, Inlays, Onlays and Cast Restorations are Benefits only if they are provided to treat cavities which cannot be restored with amalgam, silicate or direct composite (resin) restorations

**IV. PROSTHODONTIC BENEFITS**  
**80% if provided by a Delta Dental PPO Dentist**  
**50% if provided by other dentists**

Construction or repair of fixed bridges, partial dentures and complete dentures are Benefits if provided to replace missing, natural teeth

**V. IMPLANTS**  
**80% if provided by a Delta Dental PPO Dentist**  
**80% if provided by other dentists**

Prosthetic appliances placed into or on bone or the maxilla or mandible (upper or lower jaw) to retain or support dental prosthesis including endosseous, transosseus, subperiosteal, and endodontic implants, implant connecting bars, implant repairs and implant removal.

**VI. ORTHODONTIC BENEFITS**  
**50% if provided by a Delta Dental PPO Dentist**  
**50% if provided by other dentists**

Procedures using appliances or surgery to straighten or realign teeth, which otherwise would not function properly.

**LIMITATIONS**

1. An oral examination is a Benefit only twice in a calendar year while you are eligible under any Delta Dental plan. See Note on additional Benefits during pregnancy.
2. Full-mouth x-rays are Benefits once in a three-year period while you are eligible under any Delta Dental plan.

Delta Dental pays for a panoramic x-ray provided as an individual service only after three years have elapsed since any prior panoramic x-ray was provided under any Delta Dental plan.

3. Bitewing x-rays are provided on request by the dentist, but no more than twice in any calendar year for children to age 18 or once in any calendar year for adults age 18 and over, while you are eligible under any Delta Dental plan.
4. Only the first three cleanings, fluoride treatments, or Single Procedures which include cleaning, or combination thereof, in any calendar year are Benefits while you are eligible under any Delta Dental plan. If you are pregnant during this time, we may pay for an additional cleaning. See Note on additional Benefits during pregnancy.

Routine prophylaxes are covered as a Diagnostic and Preventive Benefit and periodontal prophylaxes are covered as a Basic Benefit.

5. Fluoride treatments are covered three times each calendar year under any Delta Dental plan.
6. Periodontal limitations:
  - a) Benefits for periodontal scaling and root planing in the same quadrant are limited to once in every 24-month period. See note on additional Benefits during pregnancy.
  - b) Periodontal surgery in the same quadrant is limited to once in every 36-month period and includes any surgical re-entry or scaling and root planing.
  - 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.

- 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.
7. Sealant Benefits include the application of sealants only to permanent first molars through age eight and second molars through age 15 if they are without caries (decay) or restorations on the occlusal surface. Sealant Benefits do not include the repair or replacement of a sealant on any tooth within two years of its application.
  8. Crowns, Inlays, Onlays and Cast Restorations are Benefits on the same tooth only once every five years, while you are an Enrollee under any Delta Dental plan, unless Delta Dental determines that replacement is required because the restoration is unsatisfactory as a result of poor quality of care, or because the tooth involved has experience extensive loss or changes to tooth structure or supporting tissues since the replacement of the restoration.
  9. Prosthodontic appliances are Benefits only once every five years, while you are eligible under any Delta Dental plan, unless Delta Dental determines that there has been such an extensive loss of remaining teeth or a change in supporting tissues that the existing appliance cannot be made satisfactory. Replacement of a prosthodontic appliance not provided under a Delta Dental plan will be made if it is unsatisfactory and cannot be made satisfactory.
  10. Delta Dental will pay the above percentage of the dentist's fee for a standard partial or complete denture. A standard partial or complete denture is one made from accepted materials and by conventional methods.
  11. If you select a more expensive plan of treatment than is customarily provided, or specialized techniques, an allowance will be made for the least expensive, professionally acceptable, alternative treatment plan. Delta Dental will pay the applicable percentage of the lesser fee for the customary or standard treatment and you are responsible for the remainder of the dentist's fee.  
  
For example: a crown where an amalgam filling would restore the tooth; or a precision denture where a standard denture would suffice.
  12. Covered implant procedures are not benefits unless the dentist requests and receives predetermination from Delta Dental. A second opinion may be required from a dentist and at a location selected by Delta Dental before predetermination will be granted.
  13. Replacement implants are Benefits only following a five year period after installation of an original implant provided under any Delta Dental plan.
  14. Orthodontic coverage is limited to eligible dependent children to age 19.
  15. If orthodontic treatment is begun before you become eligible for coverage, Delta Dental's payments will begin with the first payment due to the dentist following your eligibility date.
  16. Orthodontic payments will be made on a payment-in-full basis, until the plan Maximum has been reached. Payments cease with the enrollment end date. Payment of Orthodontic Benefits is limited to a lifetime Maximum of \$1,500.
  17. Delta Dental's orthodontics payments will stop when the first payment is due to the dentist following either a loss of eligibility, or if treatment is ended for any reason before it is completed.

18. Delta Dental will pay the applicable percentage of the Dentist's fee for a standard orthodontic treatment plan involving surgical and/or non-surgical procedures. If the Enrollee selects specialized orthodontic appliances or procedures chosen for aesthetic considerations an allowance will be made for the cost of a standard orthodontic treatment plan and the Enrollee is responsible for the remainder of the Dentist's fee.
19. X-rays and extractions that might be necessary for orthodontic treatment are not covered by Orthodontic Benefits, but may be covered under Diagnostic and Preventive or Basic Benefits.

## **EXCLUSIONS/SERVICES WE DO NOT COVER**

Delta Dental covers a wide variety of dental care expenses, but there are some services for which we do not provide Benefits. It is important for you to know what these services are before you visit your dentist.

Delta Dental does not provide benefits for:

1. Services for injuries or conditions that are covered under Workers' Compensation or Employer's Liability Laws.
2. Services which are provided to the Enrollee by any Federal or State Governmental Agency or are provided without cost to the Enrollee by any municipality, county or other political subdivision, except Medi-Cal benefits.
3. 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 is not a covered Benefit.
4. Services for cosmetic purposes or for conditions that are a result of hereditary or developmental defects, such as cleft palate, upper and lower jaw malformations, congenitally missing teeth and teeth that are discolored or lacking enamel.
5. Services for restoring tooth structure lost from wear (abrasion, erosion, attrition, or abfraction), for rebuilding or maintaining chewing surfaces due to teeth out of alignment or occlusion, or for stabilizing the teeth. Examples of such treatment are equilibration and periodontal splinting.
6. Any Single Procedure, bridge, denture or other prosthodontic service which was started before the Enrollee was covered by this plan.
7. Prescribed drugs, or applied therapeutic drugs, premedication or analgesia.
8. Experimental procedures.
9. Charges by any hospital or other surgical or treatment facility and any additional fees charged by the Dentist for treatment in any such facility.
10. Anesthesia, except for general anesthesia or I.V. sedation given by a licensed Dentist for Oral Surgery services and select Endodontic and Periodontic procedures.
11. Grafting tissues from outside the mouth to tissues inside the mouth ("extraoral grafts").
12. Diagnosis or treatment by any method of any condition related to the temporomandibular (jaw) joints or associated muscles, nerves or tissues.
13. Replacement of existing restoration for any purpose other than active tooth decay.
14. Occlusal guards and complete occlusal adjustment.

15. Charges for replacement or repair of an orthodontic appliance paid in part or in full by this plan.
16. Diagnostic casts.

## **OTHER CHARGES**

Delta Dental's co-payment for your Benefits is shown in this Evidence of Coverage under the caption titled "YOUR BENEFITS." If dental services are provided by a Delta Dental Dentist or a **Delta Dental PPO Dentist**, you are responsible for your co-payment only.

If the dental services you receive are provided by a dentist who is not a Delta Dental Dentist or **Delta Dental PPO Dentist**, you are responsible for the difference between the amount Delta Dental pays and the amount charged by the non-Delta Dental dentist.

## **COVERED FEES**

It is to your advantage to select a dentist who is a Delta Dental Dentist, since a lower percentage of the dentist's fees may be covered by this plan if you select a dentist who is not a Delta Dental Dentist.

A list of Delta Dental Dentists (see DEFINITIONS) is available by calling 888-335-8227 or by using our website, [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com).

Payment to a **Delta Dental PPO Dentist** will be based on the applicable percentage of the lesser of the Fee Actually Charged, the dentist's accepted Usual, Customary and Reasonable Fee on file with Delta Dental, or a fee which the dentist has contractually agreed upon with Delta Dental to accept for treating enrollees under this plan.

Payment to a Delta Dental Dentist will be based on the applicable percentage of the lesser of the Fee Actually Charged, or the accepted fee that the dentist has on file with Delta Dental.

Payment for services by a California dentist, or an out-of-state dentist, who is not a Delta Dental Dentist will be based on the applicable percentage of the lesser of the Fee Actually Charged, or the fee that satisfies the majority of Delta Dental Dentists.

Payment for services by a dentist located outside the United States will be based on the applicable percentage of the lesser of the Fee Actually Charged, or the fee that satisfies the majority of Delta Dental Dentists.

## **EXTENSION OF BENEFITS**

All Benefits cease on the date coverage terminates, except Delta Dental will pay for Single Procedures which were commenced while you were eligible.

## **CHOICE OF DENTISTS AND PROVIDERS**

### **PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SO YOU WILL KNOW FROM WHOM OR WHAT GROUP OF PROVIDERS HEALTH CARE MAY BE OBTAINED.**

Nearly 29,000 dentists in active practice in California are Delta Dental Dentists. About 16,500 of these Delta Dental Dentists are also **Delta Dental PPO Dentists**. You are free to choose any dentist for treatment, but it is to your advantage to choose a Delta Dental Dentist. This is because his or her fees are approved in advance by Delta Dental. Delta Dental Dentists have treatment forms on hand and will complete and submit the forms to Delta Dental free of charge.

**If you choose a Delta Dental PPO Dentist, you will receive all of the advantages of going to a Delta Dental Dentist, and you may have a higher level of Benefits for certain services.**

If you go to a non-Delta Dental Dentist, Delta Dental cannot assure you what percentage of the charged fee may be covered. Claims for services from non-Delta Dental Dentists may be submitted to Delta Dental at P.O. Box 997330, Sacramento, CA 95899-7330.

Dentists located outside the United States are not Delta Dental Dentists. Claims submitted by out-of-country dentists are translated by Delta Dental staff and the currency is converted to U.S. dollars. Claims submitted by out-of-country dentists for Enrollees residing in California are referred to Delta Dental's Quality Assessment department for processing.

Delta Dental may require a clinical examination to determine the quality of the services provided, and Delta Dental may decline to reimburse you for Benefits if the services are found to be unsatisfactory.

A list of **Delta Dental PPO Dentists** and Delta Dental Dentists can be obtained by calling 888-335-8227. This list will identify those dentists who can provide care for individuals who have mobility impairments or have special health care needs. You can obtain specific information about **Delta Dental PPO Dentists** and Delta Dental Dentists by using our website – [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com) or calling the Delta Dental Customer Service department at the number listed on page 1. A printed list of the **Delta Dental PPO Dentists** and Delta Dental Dentists in your area is also available by calling 888-335-8227 or by using our website, [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com).

Services from dental school clinics may be provided by students of dentistry or instructors who are not licensed by the state of California.

Delta Dental shares the public and professional concern about the possible spread of HIV and other infectious diseases in the dental office. However, Delta Dental cannot ensure your dentist's use of precautions against the spread of such diseases, or compel your dentist to be tested for HIV or to disclose test results to Delta Dental, or to you. Delta Dental informs its panel dentists about the need for clinical precautions as recommended by recognized health authorities on this issue. If you should have questions about your dentist's health status or use of recommended clinical precautions, you should discuss them with your dentist.

## **CONTINUITY OF CARE**

### **Current Enrollees:**

Current Enrollees may have the right to the benefit of completion of care with their terminated Delta Dental Dentist for certain specified dental conditions. Please call Delta Dental's Quality Assessment Department at 415-972-8300 to see if you may be eligible for this benefit. You may request a copy of the Delta Dental's Continuity of Care Policy. You must make a specific request to continue under the care of your terminated Delta Dental Dentist. We are not required to continue your care with that dentist if you are not eligible under our policy or if we cannot reach agreement with your terminated Delta Dental Dentist on the terms regarding your care in accordance with California law.

### **New Enrollees:**

A new Enrollee may have the right to the qualified benefit of completion of care with their non-Delta Dental Dentist for certain specified dental conditions. Please call Delta Dental's Quality Assessment Department at 415-972-8300 to see if you may be eligible for this benefit. You may request a copy of the Delta Dental's Continuity of Care Policy. You must make a specific request to continue under the care of your current provider. We are not required to continue your care with that dentist if you are not eligible under our policy or if we cannot reach agreement with your non-Delta Dental Dentist on the terms regarding your care in accordance with California law. This policy does not apply to new Enrollees of an individual subscriber contract.

## **PUBLIC POLICY PARTICIPATION BY ENROLLEES**

Delta Dental's Board of Directors includes Enrollees who participate in establishing Delta Dental's public policy regarding Enrollees through periodic review of Delta Dental's Quality Assessment program reports and communications from Enrollees. Enrollees may submit any suggestions regarding Delta Dental's public policy in writing to: Delta Dental of California, Customer Service Department, P. O. Box 997330, Sacramento, CA 95899-7330.

## **SAVING MONEY ON YOUR DENTAL BILLS**

You can keep your dental expenses down by practicing the following:

1. Compare the fees of different dentists;
2. Using a **Delta Dental PPO Dentist** for greatest savings;
3. Using a Delta Dental Dentists rather than a non-Delta Dental Dentists;
4. Have your dentist obtain predetermination from Delta Dental for any treatment over \$300;
5. Visit your dentist regularly for checkups;
6. Follow your dentist's advice about regular brushing and flossing;
7. Avoid putting off treatment until you have a major problem; and
8. Learn the facts about overbilling. Under this plan, you must pay the dentist your co-payment share (see YOUR BENEFITS). You may hear of some dentists who offer to accept insurance payments as "full payment." You should know that these dentists may do so by overcharging your plan and may do more work than you need, thereby increasing plan costs. You can help keep your dental Benefits intact by avoiding such schemes.

## **YOUR FIRST APPOINTMENT**

During your first appointment, be sure to give your dentist the following information:

1. Your Delta Dental group number (on the front of this booklet);
2. The Trust Fund name: (Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California)
3. Primary Enrollee's Participant ID number (which must also be used by Dependents);
4. Primary Enrollee's date of birth;
5. Any other dental coverage you may have.

## **ACCESSIBILITY AND SERVICES FOR AFTER-HOURS AND URGENT CARE**

If you or a family member has special needs, you should ask your dentist about accessibility to their office or clinic at the time you call for an appointment. Your dentist will be able to tell you if their office is accessible taking into consideration the specific requirements of your needs.

Routine or urgent care may be obtained from any licensed dentist during their normal office hours. Delta Dental does not require prior authorization before seeking treatment for urgent or after-hours care. You may plan in advance, for treatment for urgent, emergency or after-hours care by asking your dentist how you can contact the dentist in the event you or a family member may need urgent care treatment or treatment after normal business hours.

Many dentists have made prior arrangements with other dentists to provide care to you if treatment is immediately or urgently needed. You may also call the local dental society that is listed in your local telephone directory if your dentist is not available to refer you to another dentist for urgent, emergency or after-hours care.

## **PREDETERMINATIONS**

After an examination, your dentist will talk to you about treatment you may need. The cost of treatment is something you may want to consider. If the service is extensive and involves crowns or bridges, or if the service will cost more than \$300, we encourage you to ask your dentist to request a predetermination.

**A predetermination does not guarantee payment. It is an estimate of the amount Delta Dental will pay if you are eligible and meet all the requirements of your plan at the time the treatment you have planned is completed.**

In order to receive predetermination, your dentist must send a claim form listing the proposed treatment. Delta Dental will send your dentist a Notice of Predetermination which estimates how much you will have to pay. After you review the estimate with your dentist and decide to go ahead with the treatment plan, your dentist returns the form to us for payment when treatment has been completed.

Computations are estimates only and are based on what would be payable on the date the Notice of Predetermination is issued if the individual is eligible. Payment will depend on the individual's eligibility and the remaining annual Maximum when completed services are submitted to Delta Dental.

Predetermining treatment helps prevent any misunderstanding about your financial responsibilities. If you have any concerns about the predetermination, let us know before treatment begins so your questions can be answered before you incur any charges.

## **REIMBURSEMENT PROVISIONS**

A Delta Dental Dentist will file the claim for you. You do not have to file a claim or pay Delta Dental's co-payment for covered services if provided by a Delta Dental Dentist. Delta Dental of California's agreement with our Delta Dental Dentists makes sure that you will not be responsible to the dentist for any money we owe.

If the covered service is provided by a dentist who is not a Delta Dental Dentist, you are responsible for filing the claims and paying your dentist. Claims should be filed with Delta Dental of California at P. O. Box 997330, Sacramento, CA 95899-7330 and Delta Dental will reimburse you. However, if for any reason we fail to pay a dentist who is not a Delta Dental Dentist, you may be liable for that portion of the cost. Payments made to you are not assignable (in other words, we will not grant requests to pay non-Delta Dental Dentists directly).

Payment for claims exceeding \$500 for services provided by dentists located outside the United States may, at Delta Dental's option, be conditioned upon a clinical evaluation at Delta Dental's request (see Second Opinions). Delta Dental will not pay Benefits for such services if they are found to be unsatisfactory.

Delta Dental does not pay Delta Dental Dentists any incentive as an inducement to deny, reduce, limit or delay any appropriate service. If you wish to know more about the method of reimbursement to Delta Dental Dentists, you may call Delta Dental's Customer Service department for more information.

Payment for any Single Procedure that is a Covered Service will only be made upon completion of that procedure. Delta Dental does not make or prorate payments for treatment in progress or incomplete procedures.

If there is a difference between what your dentist is charging you and what Delta Dental says your portion should be, or if you are not satisfied with the dental work you have received, contact Delta Dental's Customer Service department. We may be able to help you resolve the situation.

Delta Dental may deny payment of a claim for services submitted more than 12 months after the date the services were provided. If a claim is denied due to a Delta Dental Dentist's failure to make a timely submission, you shall not be liable to that dentist for the amount which would have been payable by Delta Dental (unless you failed to advise the dentist of your eligibility at the time of treatment).

The process Delta Dental uses to determine or deny payment for services is distributed to all Delta Dental Dentists. It describes in detail the dental procedures covered as Benefits, the conditions under which coverage is provided, and the limitations and exclusions applicable to the plan. Claims are reviewed for eligibility and are paid according to these processing policies. Those claims which require additional review are evaluated by Delta Dental's dentist consultants. If any claims are not covered, or if limitations or exclusions apply to services you have received from a Delta Dental Dentist, you will be notified by an adjustment notice on the Notice of Payment or Action. You may contact Delta Dental's Customer Service department for more information regarding Delta Dental's processing policies.

Delta Dental uses a method called "first-in/first-out" to begin processing your claims. The date we receive your claim determines the order in which processing begins. For example, if you receive dental services in January and February, but we receive the February claim first, processing begins on the February claim first.

Incomplete or missing data can affect the date the claim is paid. If you or your dentist has not provided Delta Dental with all information necessary to complete claim processing, payment could be delayed until any missing or incomplete data is received by Delta Dental.

The order in which your claims are processed and paid by Delta Dental may also impact your annual Maximum. For example, if a claim with a later date of service is paid and your annual Maximum for the year has been reached then a claim with an earlier date of service in the same calendar year will not be paid.

Maximums can also be affected when the amount paid for services provided by a Delta Dental PPO Dentist is higher than the maximum paid for services provided by a non-Delta Dental PPO Dentist. For example, if the Delta Dental PPO Plan's annual Maximum is \$2,500 and the maximum for services provided by non-Delta Dental PPO Dentists is \$2,000 and Delta Dental has paid \$2,000 dollars for covered dental services, you do not qualify for any further payments for services provided by non-Delta Dental PPO dentists. But, if any other covered services are provided by a Delta Dental PPO Dentist, you qualify for an additional \$500.

## **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SERVICES FROM A DELTA DENTAL DENTIST**

If you have questions about the services you receive from a Delta Dental Dentist, we recommend that you first discuss the matter with your dentist. If you continue to have concerns, call our Quality Assessment department at 415-972-8300, extension 2700. If appropriate, Delta Dental can arrange for you to be examined by one of our consulting dentists in your area. If the consultant recommends the work be replaced or corrected, Delta Dental will intervene with the original dentist to either have the services replaced or corrected at no additional cost to you or obtain a refund. In the latter case, you are free to choose another dentist to receive your full Benefit.

## **SECOND OPINIONS**

Delta Dental obtains second opinions through Regional Consultant members of its Quality Review Committee who conduct clinical examinations, prepare objective reports of dental conditions, and evaluate treatment that is proposed or has been provided.

Delta Dental will authorize such an examination prior to treatment when necessary to make a Benefits determination in response to a request for a Predetermination of treatment cost by a dentist. Delta Dental will also authorize a second opinion after treatment if an Enrollee has a complaint regarding the quality of care provided. Delta Dental will notify the Enrollee and the treating dentist when a second opinion is necessary and appropriate, and direct the Enrollee to the Regional Consultant selected by Delta Dental to perform the clinical examination. When Delta Dental authorizes a second opinion through a Regional Consultant, we will pay for all charges.

Enrollees may otherwise obtain second opinions about treatment from any dentist they choose, and claims for the examination may be submitted to Delta Dental for payment. Delta Dental will pay such claims in accordance with the Benefits of the plan.

## **ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION**

Donating organ and tissue provides many societal benefits. Organ and tissue donation allows recipients of transplants to go on to lead fuller and more meaningful lives. Currently, the need for organ transplants far exceeds availability. If you are interested in organ donation, please speak to your physician. Organ donation begins at the hospital when a person is pronounced brain dead and identified as a potential organ donor. An organ procurement organization will become involved to coordinate the activities.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AND CLAIMS APPEAL**

If you have any questions about the services received from a Delta Dental Dentist, we recommend that you first discuss the matter with your Dentist. If you continue to have concerns, you may call or write us. We will provide notifications if any dental services or claims are denied, in whole or part, stating the specific reason or reasons for denial. Any questions of ineligibility should first be handled directly between you and your group. If you have a question or complaint regarding the denial of dental services or claims, the policies, procedures and operations of Delta Dental, or the quality of dental services performed by a Delta Dental Dentist, he or she may call us toll-free at **888-335-8227**, contact us on our website at: [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com) or write us at P. O. Box 997330, Sacramento, CA 95899-7330, Attention: Customer Service Department.

If your claim has been denied or modified, you may file a request for review with us within 180 days after receipt of the denial or modification. We will treat the request for review as a grievance. If in writing, the correspondence must include the group name and number, the Primary Enrollee's name and ID number, the inquirer's telephone number and any additional information that would support the claim for benefits. The correspondence should also include a copy of the treatment form, Notice of Payment and any other relevant information. Upon request and free of charge, we will provide you with copies of any pertinent documents that are relevant to the claim, a copy of any internal rule, guideline, protocol, and/or explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment if relied upon in denying or modifying the claim.

Our review will take into account all information, regardless of whether such information was submitted or considered initially. Certain cases may be referred to one of our regional consultants, to a review committee of the dental society or to the state dental association for evaluation. Our review shall be conducted by a person who is neither the individual who made the original claim denial, nor the subordinate of such individual, and we will not give deference to the initial decision. If the review of a claim denial is based in whole or in part on a lack of medical necessity, experimental treatment, or a clinical judgment in applying the terms of the contract terms, we shall consult with a dentist who has appropriate training and experience. The identity of such dental consultant is available upon request.

We will provide a written acknowledgement within five days of receipt of the request for review. We will render a decision and respond to you within 60 days of receipt of the request for review. We will respond, within 72 hours to grievances involving severe pain and imminent and serious threat to a patient's health (urgent care grievance).

You may contact the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) for further review of the claim or if you have questions about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). You 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.

## **IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE**

It is to your advantage to let your dentist and Delta Dental know if you have dental coverage in addition to this Delta Dental plan. Most dental carriers cooperate with one another to avoid duplicate payments, but still allow you to make use of both plans - sometimes paying 100% of your dental bill. For example, you might have some fillings that cost \$100. If the primary carrier usually pays 80% for these services, it would pay \$80. The secondary carrier might usually pay 50% for this service. In this case, since payment is not to exceed the entire fee charged, the secondary carrier pays the remaining \$20 only. Since this method pays 100% of the bill, you have no out-of-pocket expense.

Be sure to advise your dentist of all plans under which you have dental coverage and have him or her complete the dual coverage portion of the claim form, so that you will receive all benefits to which you are entitled. For further information, contact the Delta Dental Customer Service department at the number in the USING THIS BOOKLET section.

## **OPTIONAL CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE**

The federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) requires that continued health care coverage be made available to "Qualified Beneficiaries" who lose health care coverage under the group plan as a result of a "Qualifying Event." You or your Dependents may be entitled to continue coverage under this program, at the Qualified Beneficiary's expense, if certain conditions are met. The period of continued coverage depends on the Qualifying Event.

Please refer to the Summary Plan Description of the Carpenters Health and Welfare Trust Fund for California for complete information about your COBRA Continuation of Coverage Rights.