

Periodontal disease

To help control periodontal disease, Delta Dental recommends four periodontal maintenance visits per year for those individuals with moderate to high risk of progressive periodontal diseases.

Most patients with recurrent inflammation of the gingival tissues (gingivitis) without bone loss are adequately treated with one or two cleanings per year. In these cases, a dental prophylaxis will preserve the periodontal tissues.

For patients with a history of susceptibility to periodontal diseases, periodontal maintenance needs to be conducted at more frequent intervals.^{1,2} Statistical modeling³ and Delta Dental's analysis of its own claims data⁴ show that these nonsurgical benefits are more economical than periodontal surgery. These procedures are also health-preserving and reduce tooth loss compared to those periodontal patients who do not receive these therapies.⁵ Tooth loss is a major expense whether the tooth is replaced by a conventional bridge or a dental implant.

EBICP benefits for persons with prior surgical or nonsurgical treatment of periodontal disease

With an indicator for prior surgical or nonsurgical treatment of periodontal disease, a participant is eligible for up to two additional dental visits in a benefit year for adult prophylaxis or periodontal maintenance. Participants are also eligible for topical fluoride application beyond the age limitation of the group contract. Coverage will be at the group-contracted benefit level. There is no end date on this additional coverage. There is no age requirement and the patient may be the subscriber, spouse or other covered dependent.

¹ Knowles JW, Burgett FG, Nissle RR et al. Results of periodontal treatment related to pocket depth and attachment level Eight years J. Periodontology 1979;50:225-233.

² Fleszar TJ, Knowles JW, Morrison EC, Burgett FG, Nissle RFR, Ramfjord SP. Tooth mobility and periodontal therapy. J Clin Periodontology 1980;7:495-505.

³ Braegger, U. Cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analyses on periodontitis prevention. J Clin Periodontology. 2005;32 Suppl 6:301-13. Review.

⁴ Delta Dental Data Analysis Center, 2004.

⁵ Axelsson P, Lindhe J, Nystrom B. On the prevention of caries and periodontal disease. Results of a 15-year longitudinal study in adults. J Clin Periodontology. 1991 Mar; 18(3):182-9.

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