



Delta Dental Insurance Company

Duval County Schools Retirees

Primary Enrollee's Name



deltadentalins.com

Group No: 16797

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

This Certificate Contains a Deductible

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to welcome you to the group dental plan for **Duval County Schools Retirees**. Your plan is underwritten and administered by Delta Dental Insurance Company (“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.

Using This Evidence of Coverage

This Evidence of Coverage booklet, which includes Attachment A, Deductibles, Maximums and Contract Benefit Levels (Attachment A), Attachment B, Services, Limitations and Exclusions (Attachment B), and Attachment B-1, Wellness Benefits (Attachment B-1), 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 your employer, trust fund, or other entity (“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. This booklet is *not* a Summary Plan Description to meet the requirements of ERISA.

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 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.

You can access our automated information line at 800-521-2651 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, including the resolution of complaints. If you prefer to write us with your question(s), please mail your inquiry to the following address:

Delta Dental Insurance Company
P.O. Box 1809
Alpharetta, GA 30023-1809



Michael G. Hankinson, Esq., President

DEFINITIONS

Terms when capitalized in your Evidence of Coverage 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.

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® 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 PPOSM 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.

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 Employee eligible for Benefits.

Eligible Employee: any retired employee as eligible for Benefits.

Enrollee: an Eligible Employee ("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.

Open Enrollment Period: the month of the year during which employees may change coverage for the next Contract Year.

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 Employee 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);
- employment status (change in employment status of Enrollee or Eligible Dependent);
- 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.

PREMIUMS

You are required to contribute towards the cost of your coverage.

You are required to contribute towards the cost of your Dependent Enrollee's coverage.

We may cancel the Contract 30 days after written notice to the Contractholder if monthly premiums are not paid when due.

ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

Eligibility Requirements

You will become eligible to receive Benefits on the date stated in the Contract after completing any eligibility periods required by the Contractholder as stated in the Contract.

If your dependents are covered, they will be eligible when you are or as soon as they become dependents.

- Dependents are the Primary Enrollee's Spouse and dependent children from birth to age 26.
- Children include natural children, stepchildren, foster children, adopted children, children placed for adoption, custodial children, children for which the employee has been appointed legal guardian and newborn children, including a newborn child of a covered dependent child and children of a partner as recognized by the Contractholder. The dependents of Primary Enrollees are eligible to enroll on the same date that the employee, of whom they are a Dependent, becomes a Primary Enrollee.
- Newborn children, including a newborn child of a covered dependent child or a newborn child where a written agreement to adopt has been entered into prior to birth, are eligible from the moment of birth. Adopted children, foster children and custodial children are eligible from the moment of placement in the Enrollee's residence. Notice of birth, adoption placement, foster home placement or other custodial placement of a child with Enrollee must be received within 31 days of the birth or placement. If notice of birth or adoption is received within the 31 day notice period, no additional premiums are due during the notice period. If notice is received within 60 days of the birth or adoption placement instead of 31 days, coverage will be effective from the date of birth or placement, but the Enrollee must pay any additional Premium from the date of birth or placement. Eligibility for a newborn child of covered dependent child terminates 18 months after the birth of the newborn.
- Later-acquired dependents become eligible as soon as they acquire dependent status.
- An overage dependent child may be eligible if:
 - (1) 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;
 - (2) he or she is chiefly dependent on the eligible employee for support; and
 - (3) proof of dependent child's disability is provided within 31 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.

Dependents serving active military duty are not eligible, as they are typically covered under health and dental insurance provided by the military while they are on active duty.

Enrollment Requirements

If the Contractholder is paying all premiums for you and your dependents, everyone is automatically enrolled.

If you are paying all or a portion of premiums for yourself or your dependents then:

- You must enroll within 31 days after the date you become eligible or during an Open Enrollment Period.
- All dependents must be enrolled within 31 days after they become eligible or during an Open Enrollment Period.
- If you elect dependent coverage, you must enroll all of your Dependent Enrollees for coverage.
- You must pay Premiums in the manner elected by the Contractholder and approved by us. Coverage cannot be dropped or changed other than during an Open Enrollment Period or because of a Qualifying Status Change.
- If you pay Premiums for your Dependent Enrollees, you must pay the Premiums in the manner elected by the Contractholder and approved by us until your dependents are no longer eligible or until you choose to drop dependent coverage. If notice of a birth or adoption is received within the 31 day notice period, no additional premiums are due during the notice period. If notice is received within 60 days of a birth or adoption placement instead of 31 days, coverage will be effective from the date of birth or placement, but the Enrollee must pay any additional Premium from the date of birth or placement. Coverage may not be changed at any time other than during an Open Enrollment Period or if there is a Qualifying Status Change.
- A child who is eligible as a Primary Enrollee and a dependent can be insured under the Contract as a Primary Enrollee or as a Dependent Enrollee but not both at the same time.

Loss of Eligibility

Your coverage ends on the earlier of the last day of the month you stop working for the Contractholder, are no longer an Eligible Employee 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 90 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.

Strike, Lay-off and Leave of Absence

You and your dependents will not be covered for any dental services received while you are on strike, lay-off or leave of absence, other than as required under the Family & Medical Leave Act of 1993 or other applicable state or federal law*.

Benefits for you and your Dependent Enrollees will resume as follows:

- if coverage is reactivated in the same Calendar Year, Deductibles and maximums will resume as if you were never gone; or
- if coverage is reactivated in a different Calendar Year, new Deductibles and maximums will apply.

Coverage will resume provided the Contractholder submits a request to Delta Dental that coverage be reactivated.

*Coverage for you and your dependents is not affected if you take a leave of absence allowed under the Family & Medical Leave Act of 1993 or other applicable state or federal law. If you are currently paying any part of your premium, you may choose to continue coverage. If you do not continue coverage during the leave, you can resume that coverage on your return to active work as if no interruption occurred.

Important: The Family & Medical Leave Act of 1993 does not apply to all companies, only those that meet certain size guidelines. See your Human Resources Department for complete information.

If you are rehired within the same Calendar Year, Deductibles and maximums will resume as if you were never gone.

Extension of Benefits

In the case of services provided to you at the termination of the Contract, an Extension of Benefits in the form of reimbursed expenses will apply if:

- the dental services were recommended in writing and commenced while the policy was in effect by the Provider to you while you were covered by the Contract.
- the dental services were for procedures other than routine examinations, prophylaxis, x-rays, sealants or orthodontic services.
- the dental services were performed within 90 days after your coverage ceased under the Contract and the termination of coverage did not occur as a result of your, or, in the case of a dependent child, the child's parent's voluntary termination of coverage.

The extension of Benefits terminates upon the earlier of:

- the 90-day period specified in the above third bullet item; or
- the date you become covered under a succeeding policy

If coverage or services for the dental procedures referred to in the above first bullet item are excluded by the succeeding contract through the use of an elimination period, you are not covered by the succeeding contract and the Extension of Benefits does not terminate.

All contractual Limitations, Exclusions or reductions that would have applied to the specific dental services had the coverage on you not terminated apply during the Extension of Benefits.

Continued Coverage under USERRA

As required under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), if you are covered by the Contract on the date your USERRA leave of absence begins, you may continue dental coverage for yourself and any covered dependents. Continuation of coverage under USERRA may not extend beyond the earlier of:

- 24 months, beginning on the date the leave of absence begins, or;
- the date you fail to return to work within the time required by USERRA.

For USERRA leave that extends beyond 31 days, the premium for continuation of coverage will be the same as for COBRA coverage.

Continuation of Coverage Under COBRA

COBRA (the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985) provides a way for you and your Dependent Enrollees who lose employer-sponsored group health plan coverage to continue coverage for a period of time. COBRA does not apply to all companies, only those that meet certain size guidelines. See your Human Resources Department for complete information.

We do not assume any of the obligations required by COBRA of the Contractholder or any employer (including the obligation to notify potential beneficiaries of their rights or options under COBRA).

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 Florida, 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.

If Eligible Employees have a choice of more than one Delta Dental PPO plan and change plans, waiting periods for Orthodontic Services will apply.

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. Your group 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

We coordinate the Benefits under the Contract with an Enrollee’s benefits under any other group or pre-paid plan or insurance policy designed to fully integrate with other policies. If this plan is the “primary” plan, we will not reduce Benefits. If this plan is the “secondary” plan, we may reduce Benefits otherwise payable under the Contract so that the total benefits paid or provided by all plans do not exceed 100 percent of total allowable expense.

- How do we determine which plan is the “primary” program?
 - (1) The plan covering you as an employee is primary over a plan covering you as a dependent.

- (2) The plan covering you as an employee is primary over a plan which covers the insured person as a dependent; except that: if the insured person is also a Medicare beneficiary, and as a result of the rule established by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations, Medicare is:
 - a) secondary to the plan covering the insured person as a dependent and
 - b) primary to the plan covering the insured person as other than a dependent (e.g. a retired employee), then the benefits of the plan covering the insured person as a dependent are determined before those of the plan covering that insured person as other than a dependent.
- (3) Except as stated below, when this plan and another plan cover the same child as a dependent of different persons, called parents:
 - a) The benefits of the plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in a year are determined before those of the plan of the parent whose birthday falls later in that year, but
 - b) If both parents have the same birthday, the benefits of the plan which covered one parent longer are determined before those of the plan which covered the other parent for a shorter period of time.
 - c) However, if the other plan does not have the birthday rule described above, but instead has a rule based on the gender of the parent, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of benefits, the rule in the other plan will determine the order of benefits.
- (4) In the case of a dependent child of legally separated or divorced parents, the plan covering the Enrollee as a dependent of the parent with legal custody, or as a dependent of the custodial parent's Spouse (i.e. step-parent) will be primary over the plan covering the Enrollee as a dependent of the parent without legal custody. If there is a court decree which would otherwise establish financial responsibility for the health care expenses with respect to the child, the benefits of a plan which covers the child as a dependent of the parent with such financial responsibility will be determined before the benefits of any other policy which covers the child as a dependent child.
- (5) If the specific terms of a court decree state that the parents will share joint custody, without stating that one of the parents is responsible for the health care expenses of the child, the plans covering the child will follow the order of benefit determination rules outlined in (3) a) through (3) c).
- (6) The Benefits of a plan which covers an insured person as an employee who is neither laid off nor retired are determined before those of a plan which covers that insured person as a laid off or retired employee. The same would hold true if an insured person is a dependent of a person covered as a retiree and an employee. If the other plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored.
- (7) If an insured person whose coverage is provided under a right of continuation pursuant to federal or state law also is covered under another plan, the following will be the order of benefit determination:
 - a) First, the Benefits of a plan covering the insured person as an employee or Primary Enrollee (or as that insured person's dependent);
 - b) Second, the Benefits under the continuation coverage.If the other plan does not have the rule described above, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule is ignored.
- (8) If none of the above rules determine the order of benefits, the benefits of the plan which covered you longer are determined before those of the plan which covered you for the shorter term.
- (9) When determination cannot be made in accordance with the above, the benefits of a plan that is a medical plan covering dental as a benefit shall be primary to a dental-only plan.

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. 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 Insurance Company
P.O. Box 1809
Alpharetta, GA 30023

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 employee 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 Insurance Company
P.O. Box 1860
Alpharetta, GA 30023

We will send you a written acknowledgment within 15 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 800-471-0236.

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 997100
Sacramento, CA 95899
Telephone Number: 800-471-0236
Website Address: 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).

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 (paid or denied):

- within 45 days after receipt of due written proof of such loss. If additional information is requested to process the claim, we will notify you and your Provider within 45 days of written proof of loss; and
- within 60 days after the requested information is received for any disputed portion of the claim.

Claims not processed (paid or denied) within 120 days of receipt are subject to a charge of 10 percent interest per annum.

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, unless you request when filing a proof of claim that the payment be made directly to the dentist providing the services. 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 premium rate. If any misstatement would materially affect the rates, we reserve the right to adjust the premium 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. No such action may be brought after the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations from the time written proof of loss is required to be given.

Automated Information Line

You may access Delta Dental's automated information line at 800-521-2651 on a regular business day to obtain your eligibility and Benefits, group benefit or claim status information or to speak to a Customer Service Representative for assistance, including the resolution of complaints.

Conformity With Prevailing Laws

All legal questions about the Contract will be governed by the state of Florida where the Contract was entered into and is to be performed. Any part of the Contract which conflicts with the laws of Florida or federal law is hereby amended to conform to the minimum requirements of such laws.