



## Oregon Group Dental Plan

Multnomah County  
Delta Dental PPO Plan  
Class 0003

Effective date: January 1, 2022  
Group number: 10001684



Oregon Dental Service doing business as Delta Dental Plan of Oregon provides dental claims payment services only and does not assume financial risk or obligation with respect to payment of claims.

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## **SECTION 1. WELCOME**

This handbook describes the main features of the dental plan (“the Plan”) provided by Multnomah County (also known as the Group), but does not waive any of the conditions of the Plan as set out in the Plan Document.

The Plan is self-funded and the Group has contracted with Delta Dental Plan of Oregon (abbreviated as Delta Dental) to provide claims and other administrative services.

Members may direct questions to one of the numbers listed in the section 2.1 or access tools and resources on Delta Dental’s personalized member website, the Member Dashboard, at [www.deltadentalor.com](http://www.deltadentalor.com). The Member Dashboard is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week allowing members to access plan information whenever it is convenient.

Delta Dental reserves the right to monitor telephone conversations and e-mail communications between its employees and its members for legitimate business purposes as determined by Delta Dental.

The Group may change or replace this handbook at any time without the consent of any member. The most current handbook is available on the Member Dashboard, accessed through the Delta Dental website. All plan provisions are governed by the Group’s agreement with Delta Dental. This handbook may not contain every plan provision.

## **SECTION 2. MEMBER RESOURCES**

### **2.1 CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Delta Dental Website** (log in to the **Member Dashboard**)

[www.DeltaDentalOR.com](http://www.DeltaDentalOR.com)

Includes many helpful features, such as Find Care (use to find an in-network dentist)

**Dental Customer Service Department**

Toll-free 888-447-8194

En Español 877-299-9063

**Telecommunications Relay Service** for the hearing impaired  
711

**Delta Dental**

P.O. Box 40384

Portland, Oregon 97240

### **2.2 MEMBERSHIP CARD**

After enrolling, members will receive ID (identification) cards that will include the group and identification numbers. Members will need to present the card each time they receive services. Members may go to the Member Dashboard or contact Customer Service for replacement of a lost ID card.

### **2.3 NETWORK**

See Network Information (section 4.1) for details about how networks work.

### **2.4 OTHER RESOURCES**

Additional member resources providing general information about the Plan can be found in Section 13 and Section 15.

### SECTION 3. GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

**Funding Medium and Type of Plan Administration:** The Plan is self-funded and the Group has contracted with Delta Dental to provide claims and other administrative services.

The Plan is funded by the Group and/or Subscriber contributions. The amount of total contributions is determined from time to time by the use of sound actuarial and underwriting methods. The portion a subscriber pays toward the total contribution is determined by the Group and the subscriber's bargaining unit.

## SECTION 4. USING THE PLAN

For questions about the Plan, members should contact Customer Service.

This handbook describes the benefits of the Plan. It is the member's responsibility to review this handbook carefully and to be aware of the Plan's limitations and exclusions.

At a first appointment, members should tell the dentist that they have dental benefits administered by Delta Dental. Members will need to provide their subscriber identification number and Delta Dental Group number to the dentist. These numbers are located on the ID card.

### 4.1 NETWORK INFORMATION

Delta Dental plans are easy to use and cost effective. This plan offers the same annual maximum plan payment limit, deductibles, and coinsurance whether a member sees an in-network dentist (Delta Dental PPO or Delta Dental Premier) or an out-of-network dentist.

If members choose an in-network dentist (available on the Member Dashboard by using "Find Care"), all of the paperwork takes place between Delta Dental and the dentist's office. For members outside Oregon, Delta Dental's national affiliation with Delta Dental Plans Association provides offices and/or contacts in every state. Also, dental claims incurred any place in the world may be processed in Oregon.

Members needing dental care may go to any dental office. However, **there are differences in reimbursement by the Plan for Delta Dental PPO dentists, Delta Dental Premier dentists and out-of-network dentists or dental care providers.** While a member may choose the services of any dentist, Delta Dental does not guarantee the availability of any particular dentist.

#### 4.1.1 In-Network Delta Dental Dentists

When using a Delta Dental PPO dentist or Delta Dental Premier dentist, the dentist may not charge the member the difference between the maximum plan allowance and the billed amount for covered services.

Payment to a Delta Dental PPO dentist will be the lesser of the PPO fee schedule and the dentist's actual billed fees.

Payment to a Delta Dental Premier dentist will be the lesser of the dentist's filed or contracted fee with Delta Dental and the fees actually charged.

#### 4.1.2 Out-of-Network Dentists

Payment to an out-of-network dentist or dental care provider is at the applicable coinsurance are limited to the maximum plan allowance for an out-of-network dentist or dental care provider. The allowable fee for providers in states other than Oregon will be that state's Delta Affiliate's non-participation dentist allowance. The member may have to pay the difference between the payable maximum allowed amount and the billed charge.



## **4.2 PREDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS**

For expensive treatment plans, Delta Dental provides a predetermination service. The dentist may submit a predetermination request to get an estimate of what the Plan would pay. The predetermination will be processed according to the Plan's current benefits and returned to the dentist. The member and the dentist should review the information before beginning treatment. The Group encourages members to take advantage of this opportunity to identify what level of coverage will be available for proposed care.

## SECTION 5. DEFINITIONS

**Alveolar Structures** are the upper and lower jaw bones.

**Alveoloplasty** is the surgical shaping of the bone of the upper or the lower jaw. It is performed most commonly in conjunction with the removal of a tooth or multiple teeth to have the gums heal smoothly for the placement of partial denture or full denture.

**Amalgam** is a silver-colored material used in restoring teeth.

**Anterior** refers to teeth located at the front of the mouth (see tooth chart in Section 6).

**Bicuspid** is a premolar tooth, between the front and back teeth (see tooth chart in Section 6).

**Bridge** is also called a fixed partial denture. A bridge replaces one or more missing teeth using a pontic (false tooth or teeth) permanently attached to the adjacent teeth. Retainer crowns (crowns placed on adjacent teeth) are considered part of the bridge.

**Broken** A tooth is considered broken when a piece or pieces of the tooth have been completely separated from the rest of the tooth. A tooth with cracks is not considered broken.

**Cast Restoration** includes crowns, inlays, onlays, and any other restoration to fit a specific member's tooth that is made at a laboratory or dental office and cemented into the tooth.

**Coinsurance** means the percentages of covered expenses to be paid by a member.

**Composite** is a tooth-colored material used in restoring teeth.

**Cost Sharing** is the share of costs a member must pay when receiving a covered service, including deductible, copayments or coinsurance. Cost sharing does not include premiums, balance billing amounts for out-of-network providers or the cost of non-covered services.

**Covered Service** is a service that is specifically described as a benefit of the Plan.

**Debridement** is the removal of excess plaque. A periodontal 'pre-cleaning' procedure done when there is too much plaque for the dentist to perform an exam.

**Declaration of Marriage or Domestic Partnership** is a signed document that attests the subscriber and one other eligible person met the criteria in the declaration to be a spouse or not state registered domestic partner. Document is required by the Group from every employee who seeks to enroll a spouse or domestic partner for dental plan coverage.

**Deductible** is the amount of covered expenses that are paid by a member before benefits are payable by the Plan.

**Delta Dental** refers to Delta Dental Plan of Oregon. Delta Dental Plan of Oregon is a business name used by Oregon Dental Service, a not-for-profit dental healthcare service contractor. Delta Dental is the claims administrator of the Plan. A reference to Delta Dental as paying claims or issuing benefits means that Delta Dental processes the claim and the Group reimburses Delta Dental for any benefit issued.

**Delta Dental PPO Dentist** means a licensed dentist who contracts in the preferred provider network (PPO) to provide dental care to members.

**Delta Dental Premier Dentist** means a licensed dentist who has agreed to provide services in the Delta Dental Premier network in accordance with terms and conditions established by Delta Dental and has satisfied Delta Dental that they are in compliance with such terms and conditions.

**Dental Consultant** means a dentist employed by Delta Dental to review treatment plans for predetermination, review dental treatment for dental necessity, evaluate codes for determining accepted fee, and to provide assistance and direction with dental claims.

**Dentally Necessary** means services that, in the judgment of Delta Dental:

- a. are established as necessary for the treatment or prevention of a dental injury or disease otherwise covered under the Plan
- b. are appropriate with regard to standards of good dental practice in the service area
- c. have a good prognosis
- d. are the least costly of the alternative supplies or levels of service that can be safely provided. For example, coverage would not be allowed for a crown when a filling would be adequate to restore the tooth appropriately

**Note:**

**The fact that a dentist may recommend or approve a service or supply does not, of itself, make the charge a covered expense.**

**Dentist** means a licensed dentist operating within the scope of their license as required under law within the state of practice.

**Denture Repair** is a procedure done to fix a complete, immediate, or partial denture. This includes adding a tooth to a partial denture, replacing a broken tooth in a denture, or fixing broken framework and/or base.

**Dependent** means any person who is or may become eligible for coverage under the terms of the Plan because of a relationship to a subscriber.

**Domestic Partner** refers to a state registered domestic partner or a not state registered domestic partner.

- a. **State Registered Domestic Partner** means a person joined with the subscriber in a partnership that has been registered in Oregon under the Oregon Domestic Partner Registry according to the Oregon Family Fairness Act.
- b. **Not State Registered Domestic Partner** means a person who is not married or registered in Oregon under the Oregon Family Fairness Act, and has entered into a partnership with the subscriber that meets the criteria in the Group's declaration of domestic partnership.

**Eligible Employee** refers to any person who:

- a. is a permanent employee of the Group
- b. is not a seasonal, substitute, or an agent, consultant or independent contractor

- c. is paid on a regular basis through the payroll system, has federal taxes deducted from such pay, and is reported to Social Security
- d. works for the Group on a regularly scheduled basis at least 20 hours per week

**Emergency Services** means services for a dental condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity requiring immediate treatment. Includes services to treat the following conditions: acute infection, acute abscess, severe tooth pain, unusual swelling of the face or gums or a knocked out tooth.

The **Group** is Multnomah County, the organization that has contracted with Delta Dental to provide claims and other administrative services. It also means the Plan Sponsor.

**Group Health Plan** means any plan, fund or program established and maintained by the Group for the purpose of providing healthcare for its employees or their dependents through insurance, reimbursement or otherwise. This dental benefit plan is a group health plan.

**Implant** is an artificial, permanent tooth root replacement used to replace a missing tooth or teeth. It is surgically placed into the upper or lower jaw bone and supports a single crown, fixed bridge, or partial or full denture.

**Implant Abutment** is an attachment used to connect an implant and an implant supported prosthetic device.

**Implant Supported Prosthetic** is a crown, bridge, or removable partial or full denture that is supported by or attached to an implant.

**Maximum Dental Payment Limit** means the amount payable by the Plan for covered Class I, II and III services received each year, or portion thereof, for each member.

**Maximum Orthodontic Payment Limit** means the amount payable by the Plan for covered orthodontic services per lifetime for each member eligible for the benefit (within the age constraints).

**Maximum Plan Allowance (MPA)** is the maximum amount that the Plan will reimburse providers:

- a. For a Delta Dental PPO dentist, the maximum amount is based on the PPO allowable fee. If the database does not contain a fee for a particular procedure in a particular area, the claim is referred to Delta Dental's dental consultant who determines a comparable code to the one billed. Delta Dental PPO dentists will not require payment from the member for billed fees in excess of the maximum plan allowance.
- b. For a Delta Dental Premier dentist, the maximum amount is the dentist's filed or contracted fee with Delta Dental. If the database does not contain a fee for a particular procedure in a particular area, the claim is referred to Delta Dental's dental consultant who determines a comparable code to the one billed. Premier dentists will not require payment from the member for billed fees in excess of the maximum plan allowance.
- c. For an out-of-network dentist, the maximum amount is based on a per service average allowance of the Delta Dental Premier dentists' filed or contracted fees. *When using an out-of-network dentist or dental care provider, any amount above the maximum plan allowance is the member's responsibility.*

**Member** means a subscriber or dependent of a subscriber who has enrolled for coverage under the terms of the Plan.

**Out-of-Network Dentist or Dental Provider** means a licensed dental provider who has not contracted to be part of the Delta Dental PPO network or the Delta Dental Premier network.

**Palliative Treatment** is treatment performed only to control pain, swelling, or bleeding in or around the teeth and gums. Palliative Treatment does not include follow-up care or definitive Restorations such as, but not limited to, crowns, extractions, or root canal treatment.

**Periodic Exam** is a routine exam (check-up), commonly performed every 6 months.

**Periodontal Maintenance** is a periodontal procedure for members who have previously been treated for periodontal disease. In addition to cleaning the visible surfaces of the teeth (as in prophylaxis) surfaces below the gum-line are also cleaned. This is a more comprehensive service than a regular cleaning (prophylaxis).

The **Plan** is the dental benefit plan sponsored and funded by the Group and Delta Dental is contracted to provide claims and other administrative services.

**Plan Sponsor** means the Group.

**Pontic** is an artificial tooth that replaces a missing tooth and is part of a bridge.

**Posterior** refers to teeth located toward the back of the mouth (tooth chart in section 5).

**PPO Fee Schedule** is the amount negotiated between Delta Dental and a participating Delta Dental PPO dentist.

**Prophylaxis** is cleaning and polishing of all teeth.

**Reline** means the process of resurfacing the tissue side of a denture with new base material.

**Restoration** is the treatment that repairs a broken or decayed tooth. Restorations include, but are not limited to, fillings and crowns.

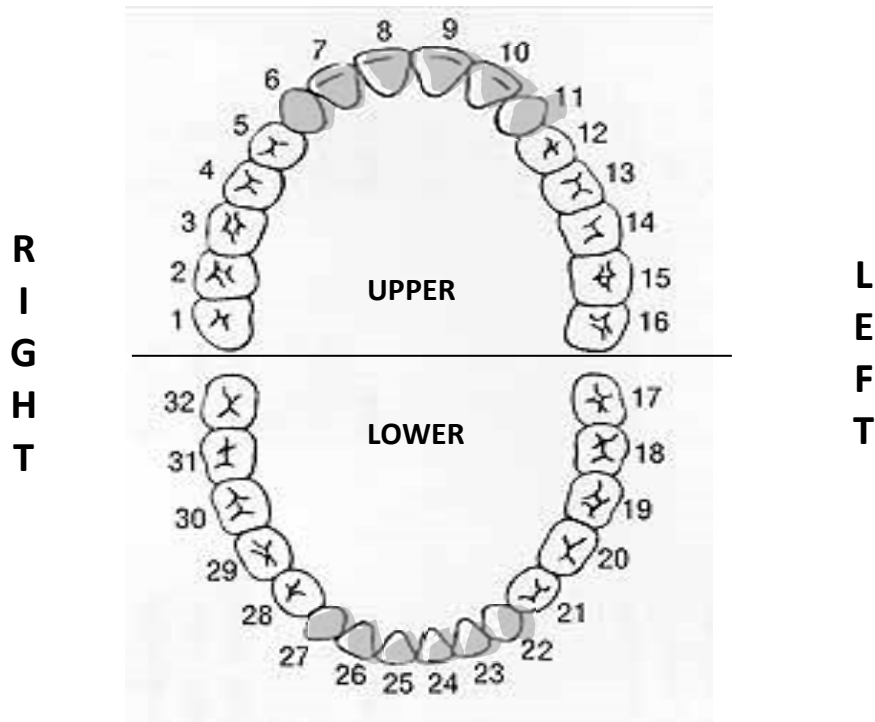
**Retainer** is a tooth used to support a prosthetic device (bridges, partial dentures or overdentures). Also see **Implant Abutment**.

**Subscriber** means any employee or former employee who is enrolled in the Plan.

**Veneer** is a layer of tooth-colored material attached to the surface of an anterior tooth to repair chips or cracks, fix gaps and change the shape and size of teeth. A **chairside veneer** is a restoration created in the dentist's office. A **laboratory veneer** is a restoration that is created (cast) at a laboratory. Chairside and laboratory veneers may be paid at different benefit levels.

## SECTION 6. TOOTH CHART

### THE PERMANENT ARCH



**Note:** The shaded teeth in the chart above are the Anterior (front) teeth. The non-shaded teeth are the Posterior (back) teeth.

The Permanent Arch		
Tooth #		Description of Tooth
Upper	Lower	
1	17	3rd Molar (wisdom tooth)
2	18	2nd Molar (12-yr molar)
3	19	1st Molar (6-yr molar)
4	20	2nd Bicuspid (2nd premolar)
5	21	1st Bicuspid (1st premolar)
6	22	Cuspid (canine/eye tooth)
7	23	Lateral Incisor
8	24	Central Incisor
9	25	Central Incisor
10	26	Lateral Incisor
11	27	Cuspid (canine/eye tooth)
12	28	1st Bicuspid (1st premolar)
13	29	2nd Bicuspid (2nd premolar)
14	30	1st Molar (6-yr molar)
15	31	2nd Molar (12-yr molar)
16	32	3rd Molar (wisdom tooth)

## SECTION 7. BENEFITS AND LIMITATIONS

**Note:** Benefits are paid based on a PLAN YEAR – January through December.

The Plan covers the services listed when performed by a dentist or dental care provider (licensed denturist or licensed hygienist) and only when determined to be necessary and customary by the standards of generally accepted dental practice for the prevention or treatment of oral disease or for accidental injury. Delta Dental's dental consultants and dental director shall determine these standards.

Payment of covered expenses is always limited to the maximum plan allowance. In no case will benefits be paid for services provided beyond the scope of a dentist's or dental care provider's license, certificate or registration. Services covered under the medical portion of a member's plan will not be covered on this Plan except when related to an accident.

Covered dental services are outlined in 3 categories or classes: Class 1 – Preventative, Class II – Restorative, Class III – Major Care. The reimbursement rate differs for each class.

**Limitations may apply to these services, and are noted below. See Section 10 for exclusions.**

Covered services, when generally accepted dental practices and standards determine they can be safely and effectively provided using teledentistry (audio, video or both), are covered when provided by a provider using such telephone or internet conferencing. The application and technology used must meet all state and federal standards for privacy and security of protected health information.

All annual or per year benefits or cost sharing accrue based on a plan year (January 1 through December 31) or portion thereof. Frequency limitations are calculated from the previous date of service or initial placement, unless otherwise specified.

**Annual Deductible: \$25.00**

Per member (not to exceed \$75.00 per family) per year, or portion thereof.  
Deductible applies to covered Class II and Class III services.

**Annual Maximum Plan Payment Limit: \$1,500.00**

Per member per year, or portion thereof.

All covered services (Class I, II, III) except orthodontia apply to the annual maximum plan payment limit. See separate Orthodontia benefit information in Section 9. Members are responsible for expenses that exceed the annual maximum plan payment limit and maximum orthodontic payment limit.

## **7.1 GENERAL LIMITATION – OPTIONAL SERVICES**

If a more expensive treatment than is functionally adequate is performed, the Plan will pay the applicable percentage of the maximum plan allowance for the least costly dentally sound treatment. The member will be responsible for the remainder of the dentist's fee. Using the pre-determination process can help a member avoid this situation.

## **7.2 CLASS I:**

### **COVERED SERVICES PAID AT 100% OF THE MAXIMUM PLAN ALLOWANCE**

#### **7.2.1 Diagnostic**

##### **a. Diagnostic Services:**

- i. Examination
- ii. Consultations for covered dental procedures
- iii. Intra-oral x-rays to assist in determining required dental treatment

##### **b. Diagnostic Limitations:**

- i. Separate charges for review of a proposed treatment plan or for diagnostic aids such as study models and certain lab tests are not covered.
- ii. Only the following x-rays are covered by the Plan: complete series or panoramic, periapical, occlusal, bitewing and Cone Beam x-rays
- iii. A separate charge for translation or sign language service is not covered. Translation or sign language service is included in the fees for overall patient management.

#### **7.2.2 Preventive**

##### **a. Preventive Services:**

- i. Prophylaxis (cleanings) including cleaning of implants
- ii. Periodontal maintenance
- iii. Topical application of fluoride
- iv. Interim caries arresting medicament application
- v. Space maintainers
- vi. Sealants

##### **b. Preventive Limitations:**

- i. Coverage for periodontal maintenance (procedure code D4910) is limited to once in any 3-month period. This service is in lieu of a regular prophylaxis (section 7.2.2.a.i).
- ii. Adult prophylaxis is only covered for members age 12 and over. Child prophylaxis is covered for members under age 12.
- iii. Topical application of fluoride is covered for members under age 23
- iv. Interim caries arresting medicament application is covered twice per tooth per year.



- v. Sealant benefits are limited to the unrestored, occlusal surfaces of permanent bicuspid and molars. Benefits will be limited to one sealant per tooth during any 5-year period. Sealants are not covered when applied to primary (baby) teeth.

### **7.3 CLASS II:**

#### **COVERED SERVICES PAID AT 80% OF THE MAXIMUM PLAN ALLOWANCE**

##### **7.3.1 Restorative**

###### **a. Restorative Services:**

- i. Amalgam fillings on posterior teeth and composite fillings on anterior teeth for the treatment of decay
- ii. Stainless steel crowns

###### **b. Restorative Limitations:**

- i. Restorations are not covered within 3 months of interim caries arresting medicament application.
- ii. Composite, resin, or similar (tooth colored) restorations in posterior teeth are considered optional services. If a composite or similar filling is used to restore posterior teeth, benefits are limited to the amount paid for an amalgam filling. **The member is responsible for paying the difference**
- iii. Inlays are considered an optional service. An alternate benefit of an amalgam filling will be provided. **The member is responsible for paying the difference.**
- iv. Crown buildups are considered to be included in the crown restoration cost. A buildup will be a benefit only if necessary for tooth retention.
- v. Prefabricated and indirectly fabricated post and core in addition to a crown are only covered when less than half of the coronal (above the gum) tooth structure remains.
- vi. Replacement of a stainless steel crown by the same dentist within a 2-year period of placement is not covered. The replacement is included in the charge for the original crown.
- vii. Additional limitations when teeth are restored with crowns or cast restorations are in section 7.4.1.

##### **7.3.2 Oral Surgery**

###### **a. Oral Surgery Services:**

- i. Extractions (including surgical)
- ii. Other minor surgical procedures

###### **b. Oral Surgery Limitations:**

- i. A separate, additional charge for alveoloplasty done in conjunction with surgical removal of teeth is not covered.
- ii. Surgery on larger lesions (generally 1.25 cm or larger) or malignant lesions is not considered minor surgery.
- iii. Osseous surgery (including flap entry and closure) is covered once in a 3-year period per quadrant with a maximum of 2 quadrants per visit.

### **7.3.3 Endodontic**

#### **a. Endodontic Services:**

- i. Procedures for treatment of teeth with diseased or damaged nerves (for example, pulpal therapy and root canal filling)

#### **b. Endodontic Limitations:**

- i. A separate charge for cultures is not covered
- ii. A separate charge for pulp removal done with a root canal or root repair is not covered.
- iii. A separate charge for pulp capping is not covered. Pulp capping is considered to be included in the fee for the final restoration.
- iv. Retreatment of the same tooth by the same dentist within a 2-year period of a root canal is not eligible for additional coverage. The retreatment is included in the charge for the original care

### **7.3.4 Periodontic**

#### **a. Periodontic Services:**

- i. Treatment of diseases of the gums and supporting structures of the teeth and/or Implants. For benefits that renew based on a time period, the calculation of the benefit renewal period begins with the last date of treatment. Services rendered prior to the benefit renewal date will not be eligible for coverage

#### **b. Periodontic Limitations:**

- i. Periodontal scaling and root planing is limited to once per quadrant in any 2-year period.
- ii. A separate charge for post-operative care done within 3 months following periodontal surgery is not covered.
- iii. Additional periodontal surgical procedures by the same dentist to the same site within a 3-year period of an initial periodontal surgery are not covered.
- iv. Full mouth debridement is limited to once in a 2-year period and, if the member is over age 18, only if there has been no cleaning (prophylaxis, periodontal maintenance) within a 2-year period.

#### **c. Repair:**

- i. Repair of existing dentures and bridges. Repair within 6 months after the initial placement is not covered. Subsequent repairs are covered once per denture in 1 12-month period. Contact Delta Dental prior to treatment for verification of coverage for proposed treatment

#### **d. Palliative Treatment:**

- i. Emergency services primarily for relief, not cure

### **7.3.5 Anesthesia**

#### **a. Anesthesia Services:**

General anesthesia or IV sedation

Covered by

- i. In conjunction with covered surgical procedures performed in a dental office
- ii. When necessary due to concurrent medical conditions

#### **7.3.6 Miscellaneous**

##### **a. Miscellaneous Services:**

- i. Nitrous oxide

### **7.4 CLASS III:**

#### **COVERED SERVICES PAID AT 50% OF THE MAXIMUM PLAN ALLOWANCE**

For benefits that renew based on a time period, the calculation of the benefit renewal period begins with the last date of treatment. Services rendered prior to the benefit renewal date will not be eligible for coverage.

#### **7.4.1 Restorative**

##### **a. Restorative Services:**

- i. Cast restorations, such as crowns, onlays or lab veneers, necessary to restore decayed or broken teeth to a state of functional acceptability

##### **b. Restorative Limitations:**

- i. Cast restorations (including pontics) are covered once in a 5-year period on any tooth. Crown buildups are considered to be part of the service and included in the crown restoration cost. A separate fee for a buildup will be considered for benefits only if the buildup is necessary for tooth retention and covered as a Class II service (see 7.3.1.b.iv).
- ii. Porcelain restorations are considered cosmetic dentistry if placed on the upper second or third molars or the lower first, second or third molars. Coverage is limited to gold without porcelain, and **the member is responsible for paying the difference.**
- iii. If a tooth can be restored with a material such as amalgam, but another type of restoration is selected by the member or dentist, covered expense will be limited to the cost of amalgam. Crowns are only a benefit if the tooth cannot be restored by a routine filling.
- iv. Restorations are not covered within 3 months of interim caries arresting medicament application.
- v. Re-cement or re-bond of a crown, inlay, or veneer, by the same dentist, is limited to once per lifetime.

#### **7.4.2 Prosthodontic**

##### **a. Prosthodontic Services:**

- i. Bridges
- ii. Partial and complete dentures
- iii. Denture relines
- iv. Implants and implant maintenance
- v. Surgical stent in conjunction with a covered surgical procedure

- vi. Nightguards for treatment of temporomandibular joint syndrome (TMJ) or tooth grinding (bruxing)

**b. Prosthodontic Limitations:**

- i. A bridge or a full or partial denture will be covered once in a 5-year period and only if the tooth, tooth site, or teeth involved have not received a cast restoration benefit in the last 5 years.
- ii. Full, immediate and overdentures: If personalized or specialized techniques are used, the covered amount will be limited to the cost for a standard full denture. Temporary (interim or provisional) complete dentures are not covered.
- iii. Partial dentures: A temporary (interim) partial denture is only a benefit when placed within 2 months of the extraction of an anterior tooth or for missing anterior permanent teeth of members age 16 or under. If a specialized or precision device is used, covered expense will be limited to the cost of a standard cast partial denture. No payment is provided for cast restorations for partial denture retainer teeth unless the tooth requires a cast restoration due to being decayed or broken.
- iv. Denture adjustments and relines: A separate, additional charge for denture adjustments and relines done within 6 months after the initial placement is not covered. Subsequent relines will be covered once per denture in a 12-month period. Subsequent adjustments are limited to 2 adjustments per denture in a 12-month period.
- v. Tissue conditioning is covered no more than twice per denture in a 3-year period.
- vi. Surgical placement and removal of Implants are covered. Implant placement and implant removal are limited to once per lifetime per tooth space. Scaling and debridement of an implant is covered once in a 2-year period. Implant maintenance is limited to once every 3 years, except when dentally necessary. The Plan will also cover:
  - A. The final crown and implant abutment over a single implant. This benefit is limited to once per tooth or tooth space in any 5-year period; or
  - B. Provide an alternate benefit per arch of a full or partial denture for the final implant-supported full or partial denture prosthetic device when the implant is placed to support a prosthetic device.; or
  - C. The final implant-supported bridge retainer and implant abutment, or pontic. The benefit is limited to once per tooth or tooth space in any 5-year period.
  - D. Implant-supported bridges are not covered if one or more of the retainers is supported by a natural tooth.
  - E. These benefits or alternate benefits are not provided if the tooth, implant, or tooth space received a cast restoration or prosthodontic benefit, including a pontic, within the previous 5 years.
- vii. Fixed bridges or removable cast partial dentures are not covered for members under age 16.
- viii. Porcelain restorations are considered cosmetic if placed on the upper second or third molars or the lower first, second, or third molars. Coverage is limited to a corresponding metallic prosthetic. **The member is responsible for paying the difference.**
- ix. Prosthodontics are not covered within 3 months of interim caries arresting medicament application.

- x. Replacement of dentures or partial dentures will not be covered if the replacement is due to loss, theft, or breakage unless it has been 5 years since the original/initial/last purchase.
- xi. Nightguards: one nightguard is covered every 3 calendar years. Lost or broken nightguards will not be covered unless it has been 3 years since the original/initial/last purchase. Nightguard repairs or relines done within 6 months of placement of nightguard by same provider are not covered. Adjustments done within 6 months of placement of nightguard by same provider and within 12 months by any provider are not covered. Repair or reline and adjustment of occlusal guard is covered once every 12-month period.

## **SECTION 8. ORAL HEALTH, TOTAL HEALTH BENEFITS**

Visiting a dentist on a regular basis and keeping the mouth healthy is critical to keeping the rest of the body healthy. Studies have indicated a relationship between periodontal disease, bacteria in the mouth, and various health problems including pre-term, low birth weight babies and diabetes.

### **8.1 ORAL HEALTH, TOTAL HEALTH BENEFITS**

The Plan has developed a program that provides additional cleanings (prophylaxis or periodontal maintenance) for Delta Dental members based on this evidence. This benefit is for the cleaning only. Coverage for a routine exam and other services is subject to the frequency limitations outlined in Section 7.

#### **8.1.1 Diabetes**

For members with diabetes, elevated blood sugar levels can have a negative effect on oral health. Diabetes increases the risk of cavities, gum disease, tooth loss, dry mouth and infection. Poor oral health can make diabetes more difficult to manage. Infections may cause blood sugar to rise and require more insulin to keep it under control. Research confirms that regular visits to the dentist may help in the diagnosis and management of diabetes.

#### **8.1.2 Pregnancy**

Keeping the mouth healthy during a pregnancy is important for a member and the baby. According to the American Dental Association, pregnant women who have periodontal (gum) disease are more likely to have a baby that is born too early and too small.

Research suggests that periodontal disease triggers increased levels of biological fluids that induce labor. Data also suggests that women whose periodontal condition worsens during pregnancy have an even higher risk of having a premature baby. Dental visits during a woman's third trimester of pregnancy may help prevent pre-term, low birth weight babies.

Members should talk to their dentist about scheduling a routine cleaning or periodontal maintenance during the third trimester of pregnancy. Pregnant members are eligible for a cleaning in the third trimester of pregnancy.

### **8.2 HOW TO ENROLL**

Enrolling in the Oral Health, Total Health program is easy. To enroll, a member can contact Customer Service or complete and return the Oral Health, Total Health enrollment form found on Member Dashboard. Members with diabetes must include proof of diagnosis.

## SECTION 9. ORTHODONTIC BENEFIT

### 9.1 ORTHODONTIC BENEFIT

**Maximum Orthodontic Payment Limit: \$3,000**  
Per each member per lifetime  
Including \$35 for diagnosis once in any five-year period

The Plan will cover 50% of the maximum plan allowance for necessary orthodontic treatment up to a lifetime maximum of \$3,000 for a member. Maximum plan allowance are charges Delta Dental determines fall within a range of those most frequently made for services and supplies in its service area by those who supply them.

Covered services are the installation of orthodontic appliances, including placement of a device to facilitate eruption of an impacted tooth, and treatment to reduce or eliminate malocclusion. The Plan will also pay \$35 for diagnosis, including models and photographs, once in any five-year period. This \$35 benefit is included in the lifetime maximum of \$3,000.

Before benefits are payable, Delta Dental must approve a treatment plan.

**Treatment Plan:** This is a report written by the member's orthodontist listing proposed services and fees. This report must include the total orthodontic charge, the initial banding fee and the estimated length of time for required treatment. It must be based on an examination which takes place while the member is covered by the Plan, and it must show a diagnosis indicating an abnormal occlusion which can be corrected by orthodontic care.

In order for the Plan to pay for covered services, especially in cases where treatment is under way when coverage begins or ends, only orthodontic treatment performed while the member is covered under the Plan is eligible for consideration and treatment period cannot exceed the original length of time prescribed in the original treatment plan.

### 9.2 LIMITATIONS

The Plan's obligation to make monthly or other periodic payments for treatment will cease upon termination of treatment for any reason prior to completion.

The Plan's obligation to make monthly or other periodic payments for treatment shall cease on termination of a member's coverage under the Plan.

If treatment began before the member was eligible for coverage under the Plan, the Plan will base its obligation on the balance of the dentist's normal payment pattern, calculated based on the member's coverage effective date with a Delta Dental plan. The maximum orthodontic payment limit will apply to this amount.

Self-administered orthodontics and repair or replacement of an appliance furnished under the Plan are not covered.

## **SECTION 10. EXCLUSIONS**

In addition to the limitations and exclusions described elsewhere in the Plan, the following services, procedures and conditions are not covered, even if otherwise dentally necessary, if they relate to a condition that is otherwise covered by the Plan, or if recommended, referred, or provided by a dentist or dental care provider.

### **Analgesics**

Substances used for pain relief.

### **Anesthesia or Sedation**

Local anesthetics, general anesthesia and/or IV sedation except as stated in section 7.3.5.

### **Behavioral Management**

Additional services, time or assistance to control the actions of a member.

### **Benefits Not Stated**

Services or supplies not specifically described in this handbook as covered dental services.

### **Claims Not Submitted Timely**

Claims submitted more than 12 months after the date of service, except as stated in section 13.1.

### **Congenital or Developmental Malformations**

Including treatment of cleft palate, maxillary and/or mandibular (upper and lower jaw) malformations, enamel hypoplasia, and fluorosis (discoloration of teeth).

### **Coping**

A thin covering over the visible part of a tooth, usually without anatomic conformity.

### **Cosmetic Services**

Services and supplies for the primary purpose of improving or changing appearance, such as tooth bleaching and enamel microabrasion.

### **Duplication and Interpretation of X-rays or Records**

### **Experimental or Investigational Procedures**

Including expenses incidental to or incurred as a direct consequence of such procedures.

### **Facility Fees**

Including additional fees charged by the dentist for hospital, extended care facility or home care treatment.

### **Gnathologic Recordings**

Services to observe the relationship of opposite teeth, including occlusion analysis

### **Hypnosis**



**Illegal Acts**

Services and supplies for treatment of an injury or condition caused by or arising directly from a member's illegal act. This includes any expense caused by or arising out of illegal acts related to riot, declared or undeclared war, including civil war, martial law, insurrection, revolution, invasion, bombardment or any use of military force or usurped power by any government, military or other authority.

**Inmates**

Services and supplies a member receives while in the custody of any state or federal law enforcement authorities or while in jail or prison

**Instructions or Training**

Including tobacco cessation counseling, plaque control and oral hygiene or dietary instruction.

**Localized Delivery of Antimicrobial Agents**

Time released antibiotics to remove bacteria from below the gumline

**Maxillofacial Prosthetics**

Except for surgical stents as stated in section 7.4.2.

**Medications**

Including any other prescribed drugs. (Prescriptions for pain or infection may be eligible for coverage under the member's prescription medication benefit plan and must be purchased through a WellDyneRx participating pharmacy if the member is enrolled in a Moda Health medical plan or Kaiser if enrolled in a Kaiser medical plan.)

**Missed Appointment Charges****Never Events**

Services and supplies related to never events. These are events that should never happen while receiving services in a dental office, including removing a non-diseased tooth structure or performing a procedure on the wrong patient or wrong tooth.

**Periodontal Charting**

Measuring and recording the space between a tooth and the gum tissue.

**Precision Attachments**

Devices to stabilize or retain a prosthesis when seated in the mouth.

**Rebuilding or Maintaining Chewing Surface; Stabilizing Teeth**

Including services only to prevent wear or protect worn or cracked teeth. Excluded services include increasing vertical dimension, equilibration, athletic mouthguards and periodontal splinting.

**Self-Treatment**

Services provided by members to themselves

**Service Related Conditions**

Treatment of any condition caused by or arising out of a member's service in the armed forces of any country or as a military contractor or from an insurrection or war, unless not covered by the member's military or veterans coverage.

**Services on Tongue, Lip, or Cheek**

Such services may be covered by the member's medical plan.

**Services Otherwise Available**

Including those services or supplies:

- a. compensable under workers' compensation or employer's liability laws
- b. provided by any city, county, state or federal law, except for Medicaid coverage
- c. provided without cost to the member by any municipality, county or other political subdivision or community agency, except to the extent that such payments are insufficient to pay for the applicable covered dental services provided under the Plan
- d. provided under separate contracts that are used to provide coordinated coverage for covered persons in a group and are considered parts of the same plan

**Splints and Other Appliances**

Including those used to increase vertical dimensions, restore bite, or correct habits such as tongue thrusting or teeth grinding (except nightguards).

**Taxes****Teledentistry Fees**

A separate charge for teledentistry is not covered. Teledentistry is covered in the normal charge for the service.

**Third Party Liability Claims**

Services and supplies for treatment of illness or injury for which a third party is or may be responsible to the extent of any recovery received from or on behalf of the third party (see section 13.3.2).

**TMJ**

Treatment of any disturbance of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) (except for nightguards in section 7.4.2).

**Treatment After Coverage Ends**

The only exception is for Class III services that were ordered and fitted while still eligible, and then only if such items are cemented within 31 days after a member's eligibility ends. This exception is not applicable if the Group transfers its plan to another carrier.

**Treatment Before Coverage Begins****Treatment Not Dentally Necessary**

Including services:

- a. not established as necessary for the treatment or prevention of a dental injury or disease otherwise covered under the Plan
- b. that are inappropriate with regard to standards of good dental practice

- c. with poor prognosis

#### **Treatment of Closed Fractures**

## SECTION 11. ELIGIBILITY

The date a person becomes eligible may be different than the date coverage begins (see Section 11).

The Group's eligibility provisions provide broader dependent eligibility rules for coverage than IRS regulations which govern the Plan. If the subscriber elects to enroll a family member who meets the Group's definition of a dependent but DOES NOT meet the IRS definition of a spouse, qualified child, or qualified relative, the payroll deduction for that enrolled dependent's coverage will be taken as a post-tax deduction and the actively employed subscriber will pay tax on the value of the coverage for that dependent.

### 11.1 SUBSCRIBERS

#### 11.1.1 Non-Represented Employees

Employees are eligible to enroll in the Plan if they work at least 20 hours a week on a regular basis in a temporary (with benefits) or permanent exempt position for the Group. Employees may be eligible to remain covered while on an approved leave of absence under state or federal family and medical leave laws.

#### 11.1.2 Represented Employees

Employees are eligible to enroll in the Plan if they are covered by any of the labor contracts, and work at least 20 hours a week on a regular basis in a permanent position for the Group. Employees may be eligible to remain covered while on an approved leave of absence under state or federal family and medical leave laws.

#### 11.1.3 Retirees

Retirees may be eligible to continue dental coverage. See the labor agreement or Personnel Rule (for non-represented employee benefits) for Retiree requirements and any premium payment obligations. Retirees may be allowed to waive retiree coverage and sign up at a later date if covered continuously by another group dental plan.

### 11.2 DEPENDENTS

A subscriber's legal spouse or domestic partner (as defined in the labor agreement between the Union and the County or Personnel Rule for non-represented employee benefits) is eligible for coverage. Children of the subscriber and children of the subscriber's spouse or domestic partner are eligible for coverage until their 26th birthday if they meet the eligibility requirements. A child is also eligible if a court or administrative order requires the subscriber to provide health coverage. **Eligible dependents must be properly enrolled in order to obtain coverage.** Actively employed subscribers must accurately report the relationship of all children so it can be determined whether the enrolled children meet IRS criteria as a "child under the age of 27", a qualified child or a qualified relative. Enrolled children who do not meet these criteria may be eligible for coverage but create a tax event for the actively employed subscriber.

**The subscriber is responsible for notifying the Group in the event an enrolled dependent ceases to be eligible. Failure to make a timely report of a dependent's loss of eligibility can cause a forfeiture of that dependent's COBRA continuation of coverage rights.**

For purposes of determining eligibility, the following are considered "children":

- a. Children who are under age 26 and are the subscriber's biological child, step-child, adopted child, child in the subscriber's custody pending adoption, a child for whom the subscriber is required by court order to provide coverage, a child for whom the subscriber is a court appointed legal guardian (up to the age of majority, or the age specified by the court), or a biological/adopted child of the domestic partner.

#### **11.2.1 Extension of Coverage for Children with Disability**

If a subscriber has an enrolled dependent child who would lose eligibility for coverage based on age and is physically or mentally incapable of self-support due to a condition, the child may be eligible for coverage beyond these age limits under this provision. To remain eligible, the following conditions must be satisfied:

- a. The child must have been enrolled in the Plan and have had continuous dental coverage prior to the age triggered loss of eligibility, and
- b. The child must be unmarried, not registered as anyone's domestic partner under the Oregon Family Fairness Act, and principally dependent on the subscriber for support, and
- c. The disability must have arisen before the age triggered loss of eligibility, and
- d. The subscriber must provide Delta Dental with a written physician's statement confirming the child has a condition rendering the child physically or mentally incapable of self-support and that the condition existed continuously prior to the loss of eligibility. Social Security Disability status does not guarantee coverage under this provision.

Documentation of the child's medical condition must be reviewed and approved by a Delta Dental medical consultant in order for the child to remain covered. **This initial review must be completed in advance of the child losing eligibility for coverage.**

- a. Recent medical or psychiatric progress notes and evaluations, referrals or consult notes
- b. Relevant test results (e.g., lab, imaging, neuro-psychiatric testing, etc.)
- c. Recent hospitalization records (e.g., history and physical, discharge summary) if applicable
- d. Disability information from prior carrier

Delta Dental will make an eligibility determination based on documentation of the child's medical condition. Periodic review by Delta Dental will be required on an ongoing basis except in cases where the disability is certified to be permanent.

### **11.3 QUALIFIED MEDICAL CHILD SUPPORT ORDER (QMCSO)**

The Plan will cover a child of an eligible employee who has a right to enrollment due to a qualified medical child support order (QMCSO). The Plan has detailed procedures for determining whether an order qualifies as a QMCSO. A copy of such procedures is available from the Group without charge.

The child's coverage under the Plan will be effective as of the first day of the month following the date that the Group determines that the applicable order qualifies as a QMCSO, and that the child is eligible for enrollment in the Plan.

## **11.4 NEW DEPENDENTS**

Generally a subscriber has 60 days from the date a new dependent is obtained to complete and submit an enrollment request for that dependent. The following is an explanation of when the new dependent's coverage would begin – if the enrollment is submitted within that enrollment period. Should the subscriber fail to submit an enrollment request during the enrollment period, the subscriber may have to wait until the next annual open enrollment in order to add the new dependent to coverage.

### **11.4.1 Marriage**

If a Subscriber marries while covered under the Plan, the spouse and dependent children become eligible for enrollment under the Plan. The Subscriber must submit enrollment and a Declaration of Marriage or Domestic Partnership. The declaration must be completed, signed electronically, and submitted to the Group during the 60 days immediately following the marriage date. If submitted during the 60 day enrollment period, coverage begins the first of the month following or coinciding with the date the Group receives the completed enrollment documentation.

### **11.4.2 Domestic Partnership – State Registered**

**State of Oregon Domestic Partner Registry:** If a subscriber establishes a domestic partnership and obtains a certificate from the State of Oregon's Domestic Partner Registry, the domestic partner and dependent children become eligible for enrollment under the Plan. The subscriber must submit enrollment and a Declaration of Marriage or Domestic Partnership. The declaration must be completed, signed electronically and submitted during the 60 days immediately following the domestic partner registry. If submitted during the 60 day enrollment period, coverage begins the first of the month following or coinciding with the date the Group receives completed enrollment documentation.

### **11.4.3 Domestic Partnership – Multnomah County Registered**

**Multnomah County Domestic Partner Registry:** If a subscriber establishes a domestic partnership and obtains a certificate from the Multnomah County Domestic Partner Registry, the domestic partner and dependent children become eligible for enrollment under the Plan. The subscriber must submit enrollment and a Declaration of Marriage or Domestic Partnership. The declaration must be completed, signed electronically and submitted during the 60 days immediately following the domestic partner registry. If submitted during the 60 day enrollment period, coverage begins the first of the month following or coinciding with the date the Group receives completed enrollment documentation.

### **11.4.4 Domestic Partnership – Shared Residency**

**Based on Shared Residence:** If a subscriber establishes a domestic partnership and does not obtain a certificate from the Multnomah County Domestic Partner Registry or the State of Oregon's Domestic Partner Registry, the domestic partner and dependent children become eligible for enrollment under the Plan six months following the date the partnership (and shared residency) commences. However, the six month shared residence period cannot include any period during which either partner was either legally married to another person, or involved in a state registered domestic partnership. In those instances, the six month residency period does not begin until the divorce or dissolution of domestic partnership is finalized. The subscriber must

submit enrollment and a Declaration of Marriage or Domestic Partnership. The declaration must be completed and signed electronically during the 60 days immediately following the end of the six month residency requirement and submitted to the Group during that period. If submitted during the 60 day enrollment period, coverage begins the first of the month following or coinciding with the date the Group receives completed enrollment documentation.

#### **11.4.5 Newborn Child**

Subscriber's newborn child is automatically eligible for coverage under the Plan for 31 days following birth. During this period the subscriber must submit enrollment. Enrollment must be submitted to the Group within 60 days of the child's birth. Coverage for the child will terminate after 31 days unless the subscriber has submitted a completed enrollment. If the enrollment is submitted after coverage is terminated but within 60 days of birth, coverage will be reinstated retroactively with no break in coverage.

#### **11.4.6 Newborn Child Of An Enrolled Child**

A newborn of a Subscriber's enrolled child is automatically eligible for coverage under the Plan for 31 days following birth. The subscriber should contact the Group within 60 days to request the 31-day enrollment of the newborn.

In certain situations, the newborn may also be eligible for coverage beyond the 31-day period. In addition to the requirements for all child dependents under the Plan, the following conditions must also be satisfied if the newborn is to remain enrolled in the Plan:

- a. At the time of birth, the grandchild's birth parent must be unmarried, under age 23, and enrolled as a dependent under the Plan, and
- b. The subscriber must submit enrollment for the grandchild within 60 days of birth, and
- c. The grandchild's birth parent must remain unmarried, under age 23 and otherwise eligible and enrolled for coverage as a dependent under the Plan, and
- d. Both the grandchild and birth parent reside in the subscriber's home.

**A grandchild's continued eligibility for coverage depends on the birth parent.** After initial enrollment, a grandchild is only eligible for coverage while all of the conditions listed above remain satisfied. At the time the child's birth parent no longer meets the requirements listed above, the grandchild's eligibility will terminate and coverage will end— *even if the birth parent remains covered*. Should this occur, the subscriber would need to obtain legal guardianship of the grandchild in order to retain coverage as a dependent.

#### **Limitations**

If the subscriber does not submit enrollment for a newborn grandchild within 60 days of birth, the child will lose eligibility for coverage. The subscriber would need to obtain legal guardianship of the grandchild in order to enroll the grandchild as a dependent at a later date.

Similarly, if the subscriber decides to terminate coverage of a grandchild, the subscriber would need to obtain legal guardianship of the grandchild in order to re-enroll the grandchild as a dependent at a later date.

#### **11.4.7 Adopted Child**

Adopted children are eligible from the date of the adoption decree. A child who is placed with the subscriber pending the completion of adoption proceedings will become eligible on the date of placement with the subscriber. An adopted child or child placed pending adoption is eligible for coverage for 31 days from the date of adoption or date of placement. To begin coverage, the

Group must be notified of the adoption and provided with the placement or adoption documentation.

The subscriber must enroll to continue coverage beyond the first 31 days. The enrollment must be submitted to the Group within 60 days of the child's adoption or placement for adoption.

Placement for adoption means the subscriber has assumed and retained a legal obligation for full or partial support of the child in anticipation of adoption.

#### **11.4.8 Tax Impact of Dependent Health Benefits**

The Group's eligibility rules identifying the dependents who are eligible for enrollment under the Plan are broader than the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) rules identifying dependents who are eligible for tax-free health plan coverage. Passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010 changed the IRC definition of a child specifically for purposes of health plan coverage. The following persons are able to receive tax-favored health coverage within the meaning of the IRC if enrolled by a subscriber who is an active employee (taxpayer):

- a. "Children under age 27". "Children under age 27" are:
  - i. the taxpayer's biological, adopted, foster or step-children; and
  - ii. who as of the end of the taxable year have not attained age 27.
- b. "Qualifying Children". Qualifying children are the taxpayer's children by birth, adoption, stepchildren, or foster children who:
  - i. are under age 19, or under age 24 in the case of a full-time student, on the last day of the calendar year, or any age if totally disabled; and
  - ii. do not provide over one-half of their own support; and
  - iii. have the same principal place of residence as the taxpayer for more than six months of the year (temporary absences, such as for school, are treated as time at the same principal place of residence).
- c. "Qualifying Relatives". Qualifying relatives are:
  - i. the taxpayer's children (by birth, adoption, stepchildren or foster children) of any age who receive over half of their support from the taxpayer and who do not meet the above "Qualifying Child" requirements with respect to any other person;
  - ii. or, persons who:
    - A. share the taxpayer's residence as a member of the household;
    - B. who receive over half of their support from the taxpayer; and
    - C. who do not meet the above "qualifying child" requirements with respect to any other person.

Note regarding (C) above: a taxpayer can treat another person's qualifying child as a "Qualifying Relative" if the child satisfies the requirements in (A) and (B) and if the other person is not required to file a tax return and either does not file a return or files one only to get a refund of withheld income taxes. For example, this could allow tax-free health coverage for the children of a taxpayer's non-working domestic partner.

#### **11.4.9 Imputed Income Tax on Non-IRS Eligible Covered Dependents' Benefits**

For subscribers who are active employees and have elected to enroll dependents who do not qualify for tax-free health benefits (such as non-spouse partners and some dependent children), the Group will:



- a. Establish the fair market value of the Group's contribution for health coverage for these dependents;
- b. Include this amount in actively employed subscriber's income when determining income and payroll taxes;
- c. Report the income on actively employed subscriber's W-2
- d. Withhold employee contributions for these dependents' coverage on a post-tax basis; and
- e. Not permit Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts to be used for the reimbursement of these dependents' uninsured expenses.

## SECTION 12. ENROLLMENT

This section explains how to enroll in the Plan. Once covered, it is the subscriber's responsibility to inform the Group if an enrolled dependent ceases to be eligible due to divorce or other changes in status.

Duration of enrollment is effective for periods no shorter than one month. Exceptions include:

- a. Partial first month enrollment immediately following the birth of an eligible child, the date of adoption of an eligible child or the date of placement for adoption of an eligible child; or
- b. partial last month coverage for a subscriber immediately following their death.

### 12.1 WHEN THE EMPLOYEE FIRST BECOMES ELIGIBLE

**New Hire:** A submitted enrollment for the eligible employee/subscriber and any dependents to be enrolled must be submitted within 31 days of subscriber's date of hire. If enrolling a spouse and/or domestic partner the subscriber must also complete a Declaration of Marriage or Domestic Partnership.

The amount of the employee's share of the monthly premium is different for full-time and/or part-time employees. Please review the enrollment brochure for the appropriate cost required to participate.

- a. If enrollment is submitted within the 31 day enrollment period, **coverage begins on the first of the month following enrollment If the first of the month is a business day and enrollment is submitted on that day, coverage will begin immediately.**
- b. If enrollment is not submitted within the 31-day enrollment period, the employee will be enrolled by default in the Plan and will not be able to change enrollment until the Group's next annual open enrollment period and the employee is provided with a 15-day period, following the default enrollment, to enroll eligible dependents.

### 12.2 ENROLLING NEW DEPENDENTS

A subscriber may obtain coverage for newly acquired or newly eligible dependents by completing enrollment and appropriate Declaration to the Group within 60 days of the eligibility event.

- a. If enrollment is submitted during the 60-day enrollment period, **coverage for new dependent(s) begins on the first of the month following enrollment and receipt of an appropriate Declaration. If the first of the month is a business day and enrollment is submitted on that day, coverage will begin immediately.**
- b. If enrollment is not submitted during the 60-day enrollment period, the subscriber may have to wait until the next annual enrollment period to add the new dependent.

Newborn children, adopted children and children placed for adoption are automatically covered for the first 31 days from birth, adoption or placement for adoption. To continue coverage, the subscriber must submit an enrollment within 60 days of birth, adoption or placement of

adoption. Otherwise, coverage for the child will remain terminated on the 31st day post birth and the subscriber will be unable to re-enroll the child until the next annual open enrollment (see section 12.4).

### **12.3 WAIVING DENTAL COVERAGE**

Employees may elect to waive dental benefits offered by the Group but elect the Group's medical/vision/prescription coverage. Employees should refer to their labor agreement or Personnel Rule 110 for non-represented employee benefits for details.

If an eligible employee waives dental coverage due to coverage under another group dental plan, the eligible employee who subsequently loses that other coverage may enroll in the Plan within 60 days of losing the other coverage without waiting for the annual open enrollment period. In this situation, the dental coverage effective date will be the first day of the month following or coinciding with submission of an enrollment and documentation confirming the termination date of the other dental coverage.

If an eligible employee waives dental coverage by choice (without having other dental coverage in force), the eligible employee will be unable to change the choice to waive dental coverage until the next annual open enrollment period

### **12.4 ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT**

If a subscriber does not enroll a newly acquired dependent within 60 days of the eligibility event, the dependent can be enrolled during the Group's annual open enrollment period.

If a newly hired employee fails to enroll any dependent within the 31 days following date of hire, such dependent will be able to enroll during the Group's annual open enrollment period or following a recognized IRS Family Status event, whichever is earlier.

### **12.5 SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS**

#### **12.5.1 Loss of Other Coverage**

If coverage is declined when initially eligible or at an open enrollment period because of other dental coverage, an eligible employee or any dependent(s) may enroll in the Plan outside of the open enrollment period if the following criteria are met:

- a. The member was covered under a group dental plan or had dental insurance coverage at the time coverage was previously offered;
- b. The member stated in writing at such time that coverage under a group dental plan or health insurance coverage was the reason enrollment was declined;
- c. The member requests such enrollment not later than 60 days after the previous coverage ended; and
- d. One of the following events has occurred:

- i. Member's prior coverage was under COBRA continuation provision and the coverage under such provision was exhausted, this includes reaching the lifetime maximum while on COBRA coverage.
- ii. Member's prior coverage was terminated as a result of loss of eligibility for the coverage. Examples of when coverage under a plan may be lost include:
  - A. legal separation or divorce
  - B. dissolution of domestic partnership
  - C. loss of dependent status per plan terms
  - D. death
  - E. end of employment or reduction in the number of hours of employment
  - F. reaching the lifetime maximum on all benefits
  - G. the plan stops offering coverage to a group of similarly situated persons
  - H. moving out of an HMO service area that causes coverage to end and no other option is available under the plan
  - I. termination of the benefit packet option, and no substitute option is offered
- iii. The employer contributions toward the member's active (not COBRA) coverage were terminated. If employer contributions stop, the eligible employee or dependent does not have to end coverage to be eligible for special enrollment on a new plan.
- iv. Member's prior coverage was under Medicaid or a children's health insurance program (CHIP) and such coverage was terminated due to loss of eligibility.

Coverage under special enrollment due to loss of coverage begins on the first day of the month following enrollment, or coinciding with, but not before the loss of other coverage.

#### **12.5.2 Eligibility Due to Premium Subsidy**

If an eligible employee or dependent covered under Medicaid or CHIP becomes eligible for a premium assistance subsidy, and special enrollment is requested within 60 days of the determination of eligibility, they may enroll in the Plan outside of the open enrollment period.

#### **12.5.3 Acquisition of New Dependents**

When an eligible employee or subscriber acquires a new dependent through birth, marriage, domestic partnership, adoption or placement of adoption, the eligible employee or subscriber, spouse or domestic partner and children will have special enrollment rights if they are not enrolled at the time of the event that caused the eligible employee or subscriber to gain a new dependent.

No waiting period may apply, if enrollment is submitted within the 60-day enrollment opportunity. Coverage would be effective for those eligible to enroll on the following dates:

- a. **Marriage:** The date coverage begins is determined by when enrollment is submitted. Once marriage has occurred, coverage begins the first day of the month following the date the Group receives the enrollment and Declaration of Marriage/Domestic Partnership. If the first of the month is a business day and enrollment is submitted on that day, coverage will begin immediately.
- b. **Birth:** Infant is automatically covered for the first 31 days following birth. A subscriber should complete and submit enrollment. If enrollment is submitted within 60 days of the date of birth, the infant's coverage will be reinstated retroactive to the 31<sup>st</sup> day post birth.
- c. **Adoption or placement for adoption:** Coverage begins on the date of the adoption or the placement date, following enrollment and adoption paperwork.

## **12.6 TERMINATION OF COVERAGE**

When the subscriber's coverage ends, coverage for all enrolled dependents also ends.

### **12.6.1 Termination of the Group Plan**

Coverage ends for the Group and members on the date the Plan ends.

### **12.6.2 Termination by a Subscriber**

If a subscriber obtains other group dental coverage, or is covered as a dependent on other dental coverage, the subscriber may be able to terminate the coverage with the Group while still actively employed. The subscriber will need to submit an enrollment change and waive the dental coverage within 60 days from the date the new coverage starts. The Plan's coverage end date will be the last day of the month following receipt of the completed enrollment change request, or, if the first of the month is a business day and enrollment is processed that day, coverage will end on the last day of the prior month.

### **12.6.3 Death**

If a subscriber who is an active employee dies, coverage for any enrolled dependents ends in accordance with the benefit termination rules (event occurring between 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of a month cause a coverage end date at the end of that month; event occurring between 16<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> of a month causes coverage to end at the end of the following month). Enrolled dependents may extend their coverage for up to 36 months if the requirements for continuation of coverage (COBRA) are met (see Section 16).

If a retired subscriber dies, coverage for any enrolled dependents ends at the end of the month. Enrolled dependents may extend their coverage for up to 36 months if the requirements for continuation of coverage (COBRA) are met (see Section 16 for details)

If a covered COBRA subscriber dies, coverage for any enrolled dependents ends at the end of the month. Enrolled dependents may extend their coverage for up to 36 months (measured from the original COBRA event date) if the requirements for continuation of coverage (COBRA) are met (see Section 16 for details).

If any subscriber dies, and the legal spouse or same sex domestic partner (when partnership is registered with the State of Oregon) is age 55 or older at the time of death, the enrolled legal spouse or state registered same sex domestic partner, and any enrolled dependent children under the Plan may continue their coverage under the Plan if they meet the requirements in section 12.6.13.

### **12.6.4 Loss of Eligibility**

If a subscriber is no longer eligible, coverage will end for the subscriber and any enrolled dependents according to the terms described in the labor agreement or Personnel Rule 110 for non-represented employee benefits. However, a subscriber and enrolled dependents may have the right to continue coverage by purchasing the coverage on their own. See the "Continuation of Dental Coverage" Section 16.

### **12.6.5 Rescission**

The Plan may rescind a member's coverage back to the effective date or deny claims at any time for fraud, material misrepresentation, or concealment by the member, which may include but is not limited to enrolling ineligible persons on the Plan, falsifying or withholding documentation or

information that is the basis for eligibility or employment, and falsification or alteration of claims. The Plan reserves the right to retain premiums paid as liquidated damages, and the member shall be responsible for the full balance of any benefits paid. Should the Plan terminate coverage under this section, Delta Dental may, to the extent permitted by law, deny future enrollment of the members under any Delta Dental policy or contract or the contract of any affiliates. A member will be notified of the rescission 30 days prior to the cancellation of coverage.

#### **12.6.6 Family and Medical Leave**

If the Group grants a subscriber a leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), as amended, the following rules will apply:

- a. Affected members will remain eligible for coverage during the approved FMLA leave.
- b. The subscriber's rights under FMLA will be governed by applicable state or federal statute and regulations.

If a subscriber is unpaid during a period of leave, the subscriber's cost shares will be recovered by the Group upon subscriber's return to work.

#### **12.6.7 Leave of Absence**

If a subscriber is granted an unpaid, non-FMLA leave of absence by the Group, group sponsored coverage will end after the initial 30 days of leave, unless the subscriber returns to work for the Group. If the employment termination date falls between the 1st and 15th of a month – the coverage end date is the last day of the same month. If the employment termination date falls between the 16th and the last day of a month – the coverage end date is the last day of the following month. Once the group sponsored coverage ends, the subscriber and any enrolled dependents may continue coverage under the Plan by purchasing the coverage on their own (see Section 16).

A leave of absence is a period off work granted by the Group during which a subscriber is still considered to be employed and is carried on the employment records of the Group.

#### **12.6.8 Strike or Lockout**

If employed under a collective bargaining agreement and involved in a work stoppage because of a strike or lockout, a subscriber may continue coverage for up to 6 months. The subscriber must pay the full premiums, including any part normally paid by the Group, directly to the union or trust, and the union or trust must continue to pay the premiums to the Group on the monthly due date.

Coverage cannot be continued if fewer than 75% of those normally covered continue coverage or if a subscriber otherwise loses eligibility under the Plan.

#### **12.6.9 Termination of Employment**

If a subscriber's active employment terminates with the Group, coverage will end for the subscriber and all enrolled dependents. If the employment termination date falls between the 1st and 15th of a month – the coverage end date is the last day of the same month. If the employment termination date falls between the 16th and the last day of a month – the coverage end date is the last day of the following month. Members may have the opportunity to continue coverage under the Plan (see section 11.1.3 or Section 16).

Should a subscriber's active employment with the Group end, then subscriber is rehired by the Group and returns to active work within the same plan year:

**If no open enrollment period has occurred during the subscriber's absence:** The subscriber and any previously enrolled dependents will be re-enrolled under the previous elected group dental plan. Coverage will begin on the first of the month following the subscriber's rehire date, unless the rehire date (first working date) is the first of the month, then benefits will begin immediately. Example: Hire date October 1, First working day October 1, coverage restarts October 1. Example: Hire date October 1, First working day October 2, coverage restarts November 1.

**If the subscriber has experienced a family status change during the leave, or returns to work at a different FTE or Bargaining Unit:** the subscriber may be able to request a change to the previous benefit elections (the subscriber can contact the Group for more information.)

**If an open enrollment period occurred during the subscriber's absence:** The subscriber must complete and submit a Benefit Enrollment, as explained in the New Hire section, in order to enroll and initiate coverage. In this situation, the subscriber has the option of changing previous plan elections or keeping the same elections but the enrollment submission is required.

#### **12.6.10 Termination of Coverage due to Reduction in Hours**

If a subscriber experiences a reduction in hours that causes loss of coverage, and subsequently experiences an increase in work hours allowing the subscriber to qualify for benefits again:

**If no open enrollment period has occurred during the period of non-coverage:** The subscriber and any previously enrolled dependents will be re-enrolled under the previously elected group dental plan. Coverage will begin on the first of the month following the subscriber's work hours increase date, unless the start date is the first of the month, then benefits will begin immediately.

**The subscriber has experienced a family status change during the period of non-coverage is working at a different FTE or Bargaining Unit:** The subscriber may be able to request a change to the previous benefit elections (the subscriber can contact the Group for more information.)

**If an open enrollment period occurred during the period of non-coverage:** The subscriber must complete and submit a Benefit Enrollment in order to enroll and initiate coverage. In this situation, the subscriber has the option of changing their previous plan elections or keeping the same elections but the enrollment submission is required.

If the subscriber has unpaid employee cost shares remaining from a prior period of employment, they will be recovered by the employer upon the employee's return to work to the extent permitted by law.

The Group must notify Delta Dental that the subscriber is being rehired following a termination of employment or their hours have been increased.

All Plan provisions will resume at the time the subscriber re-enrolls whether or not there was lapse in coverage.

#### **12.6.11 Loss of Eligibility by Children**

An enrolled child will lose eligibility when one of these events occurs (whichever occurs first):

- a. The child turns 26 years of age, or
- b. The child reaches the age of majority or the age specified by the court, if the child is under legal guardianship of the subscriber, or

- c. A grandchild ceases to meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section 11.4.6, or
- d. A child with disability ceases to meet the eligibility requirements specified in Section 11.2.1.

Coverage will end on the last day of the month in which the child's eligibility ends. The subscriber will need to submit a timely request for the enrolled dependent's removal from coverage to the Group. The subscriber (or the dependent) may have the option to continue the dependent's coverage for up to 36 months by purchasing the coverage if the former dependent meets the requirements listed in Section 16.

#### **12.6.12 Loss of Eligibility by A Spouse or Domestic Partner**

Coverage ends for an enrolled spouse or a domestic partner on the last day of the monthly period in which a decree of divorce or annulment is entered (regardless of any appeal) or domestic partnership is ended. However, the subscriber (or the spouse/domestic partner) have the option to continue the spouse/domestic partner's coverage for up to 36 months by purchasing the coverage if the former spouse/domestic partner meets the requirements listed in Section 16.

#### **\*Note\***

**It is the subscriber's responsibility to report an enrolled dependent's loss of eligibility in a timely manner. Failure to report a loss of eligibility event in a timely manner can cause a forfeiture of the terminated dependent's COBRA eligibility and, if benefit overpayment occurs, a financial responsibility for the subscriber.**

#### **12.6.13 Oregon Continuation Coverage for Spouses or State Registered Domestic Partners Age 55 and Over**

Note: In section 12.6.13 the term "domestic partner" refers only to a state registered domestic partner, as defined in Section 5.

##### **a. Introduction**

The Plan offers enrolled spouses and enrolled domestic partners the opportunity to request a temporary extension of dental coverage for themselves and their dependents if coverage is lost due to a specific event identified in the following paragraphs ("55+ Oregon Continuation").

The Plan will provide 55+ Oregon Continuation coverage to members who elect this coverage:

- a. The Plan will offer no greater rights than ORS 743B.343 to 743B.345 requires;
- b. The Plan will not provide 55+ Oregon Continuation coverage for members who do not comply with the requirements outlined below
- c. The Group is responsible for providing the required notices within the statutory time periods, including the notice of death and the election notice. If the Group fails to notify the eligible spouse or domestic partner, premiums shall be waived from the date the notice was required until the date notice is received by the spouse or domestic partner. The Group shall be responsible for such premiums

##### **b. Eligibility Requirements for 55+ Oregon Continuation Coverage**

The enrolled spouse or domestic partner of the subscriber may elect 55+ Oregon Continuation coverage for themselves and any enrolled dependents if the following requirements are met:



- a. Coverage is lost because of the death of the subscriber, dissolution of marriage or legal separation from the subscriber, or dissolution of state registered domestic partnership with the subscriber;
- b. The spouse or domestic partner is 55 years of age or older at the time of such event
- c. The spouse or domestic partner is not eligible for Medicare

**c. Notice and Election Requirements for 55+ Oregon Continuation Coverage**

**Notice of Divorce, Dissolution, or Legal Separation.** Within 60 days of legal separation or the entry of a judgment of dissolution of marriage or Oregon State Registered Domestic Partnership, a legally separated or divorced spouse or domestic partner who is eligible for 55+ Oregon Continuation and seeks such coverage shall give the Group written notice of the legal separation or dissolution. The notice shall include the member's mailing address.

Notify the Group at:

Multnomah County – Employee Benefits Office  
501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97214

**Election Notice in the event of Subscriber's Death.** Within 44 days of the death of the subscriber, the Group shall provide notice to the surviving, legally separated or divorced spouse or domestic partner that coverage can be continued, along with an election form. If the Group fails to notify the surviving spouse or domestic partner, within the required 44 days, premiums shall be waived until the date notice is received.

**Election Response for Enrollment.** The surviving, legally separated or divorced spouse or domestic partner must return the election form within 60 days after the form is mailed. Failure to exercise this election within 60 days of the notification shall terminate the right to continued benefits under this section.

**d. Premiums for 55+ Oregon Continuation Coverage**

Monthly premiums for 55+ Oregon Continuation are limited to 102% of the premiums paid by a current subscriber. The first premium shall be paid by the surviving, legally separated or divorced spouse or domestic partner to the Group within 45 days of the date of election. All remaining monthly premiums must be paid within 30 days of the premium due date. Coverage is not in force unless premium payment has been received by the Group on month to month basis. The premium for this coverage generally changes each January 1.

**e. When 55+ Oregon Continuation Coverage Ends**

55+ Oregon Continuation will end on the earliest of any of the following events:

- a. Failure to pay premiums when due, including any grace period allowed by the Plan
- b. The date the Plan terminates, unless a different group health plan is made available to group members
- c. The date the surviving, legally separated or divorced spouse, or the surviving, legally separated or former domestic partner, becomes covered under any other group health plan
- d. The date the member remarries or registers another domestic partnership
- e. The date the member becomes eligible for Medicare

#### **12.6.14 Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)**

Under USERRA, certain rights are guaranteed to a subscriber who is an active employee and is called to active duty by any of the armed forces of the United States of America. However, the Group has elected to provide coverage in excess of what this law requires. While the subscriber is on active duty, coverage will be continued for the period of uniformed service leave. The Group will waive the subscriber's cost shares that accumulate during this period not to exceed 5 years.

Should continuation coverage under USERRA be terminated or become exhausted, coverage will be reinstated on the first day the subscriber returns to active employment with the Group if released under honorable conditions, but only if the subscriber returns to active employment within time frames as set forth by the Group.

Regardless of the length of the service-related leave, a reasonable amount of travel time or recovery time for an illness or injury determined by the Veteran's Administration (VA) to be service connected will be allowed between discharge and the subscriber's return to work, provided the subscriber has notified the Group of that illness or injury.

When coverage under the Plan is reinstated, all Plan provisions and limitations will apply to the extent that they would have applied if the subscriber had not taken military leave and coverage had been continuous under the Plan. There will be no additional eligibility-waiting period. (This waiver of limitations does not provide coverage for any illness or injury caused or aggravated by military service, as determined by the VA. Complete information regarding rights under USERRA are available from the Group).

## **SECTION 13. CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION & PAYMENT**

### **13.1 SUBMISSION AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

#### **13.1.1 Claim Submission**

A claim is not payable until the service or supply has actually been received. In no event, except absence of legal capacity or in the case of a Medicaid claim, is a claim valid if submitted later than 12 months from the date the expense was incurred. Claims submitted by Medicaid must be sent to Delta Dental within 3 years after the date the expense was incurred.

#### **13.1.2 Dental Provider Claims**

A dental provider may bill charges directly to Delta Dental. However, if the provider bills the member directly, the member should forward the bills to Delta Dental. The dental provider should use the billing form and the following must be shown on the bill:

- a. The patient's name (who received treatment)
- b. The subscriber's and Group's identification numbers
- c. The date of treatment
- d. An itemized description of services and charges

#### **13.1.3 Explanation of Benefits (EOB)**

Delta Dental will report its action on a claim by providing the member a document called an Explanation of Benefits (EOB). Members are encouraged to access their EOBs electronically by signing up through the Member Dashboard. The EOB will indicate if a claim has been paid, denied, or accumulated toward satisfying any deductible. If all or part of a claim is denied, the reason will be stated in the EOB.

If a member does not receive an EOB or an email indicating that an EOB is available within a few weeks of the date of service, this may indicate that Delta Dental has not received the claim. To be eligible for reimbursement, claims must be received within the claim submission period explained in section 13.1.1.

If a member received treatment from a participating Delta Dental dentist, the EOB will also report any amounts charged by the dentist that the member will not be required to pay.

#### **13.1.4 Claim Inquiries**

Customer Service can answer questions about how to file a claim, the status of a pending claim, or any action taken on a claim. Delta Dental will respond to an inquiry within 30 days of receipt.

#### **13.1.5 Time Frames for Processing Claims**

If a claim is denied, Delta Dental will send an EOB explaining the denial within 30 days after receiving the claim. If more time is needed to process the claim for reasons beyond Delta Dental's control, a notice of delay will be sent to the member explaining those reasons within 30 days after Delta Dental receives the claim. Delta Dental will then finish processing the claim and send an EOB to the member no more than 45 days after receiving the claim. If more information is needed to process the claim, the notice of delay will describe the information needed, and the party responsible for providing the additional information will have 45 days to submit it. Once the additional information is received, processing of the claim will be completed within 15 days. Submission of information necessary to process a claim is subject to the Plan's claim submission period explained in section 13.1.1.

## 13.2 APPEALS

Before filing an appeal, it may be possible to resolve a dispute with a phone call to Customer Service.

### 13.2.1 Definitions

For purposes of section 13.2, the following definitions apply:

**Adverse Benefit Determination** means a letter or an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from Delta Dental informing a person, of any of the following: a denial, reduction, or termination of, or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit, including one based on a determination of a person's eligibility to participate in the Plan and one resulting from the application of any utilization review, as well as a failure to cover an item or service for which benefits are otherwise provided because it is determined to be experimental or investigational or not necessary and customary by the standards of generally accepted dental practice for the prevention or treatment of oral disease or accidental injury.

**Appeal** is a written request by a member or the member's representative for Delta Dental to review an adverse benefit determination.

**Utilization Review** means a system of reviewing the dental necessity, appropriateness, or quality of dental care services and supplies. An adverse benefit determination that the item or service is not dentally necessary or appropriate, is investigational or experimental, or in which the decision as to whether a benefit is covered involved a dental judgment is a utilization review decision.

### 13.2.2 Time Limit for Submitting Appeals

A member has **180 days** from the date an adverse benefit determination is received to submit the first written appeal. If appeals are not submitted within the timeframes in these sections, the members will lose the right to any appeal.

### 13.2.3 The Review Process

The Plan has a 2-level internal review process consisting of a first level appeal and a second level appeal. Delta Dental's response time to an appeal is based on the nature of the claim as described below.

**Note:**

The timelines addressed in the sections below do not apply when the member does not reasonably cooperate, or circumstances beyond the control of either party (Delta Dental or the member) makes it impossible to comply with the requirements. Whoever is unable to comply must give notice of the specific reason to the other party when the issue arises.

Upon request and free of charge, the member may have reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claim for benefits.

### 13.2.4 First Level Appeals

An appeal must be submitted in writing. If necessary, Customer Service can help with filing an appeal. Written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the claim for benefits may be submitted. Delta Dental will acknowledge receipt of the written appeal within 7 days and persons who were not involved in the original decision will investigate the appeal.

When an investigation is finished, Delta Dental will send a written notice of the decision to the member, including the reason for the decision. The investigation will be completed and notice sent with 30 days of receipt of the appeal.

#### **13.2.5 Second Level Appeal**

A member who disagrees with the decision on the first level appeal may ask for a review of the decision. The second level appeal must be submitted in writing within 60 days of the date of Delta Dental's action on the first level appeal. Investigations and responses to a second level appeal will be by persons who were not involved in the initial decisions.

Investigations and responses to a second level appeal will be by persons who were not involved in the initial determinations, and will follow the same timelines as those for a first level appeal. Delta Dental will notify the member in writing of the decision, including the basis for the decision.

### **13.3 BENEFITS AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES**

Sometimes dental expenses may be the responsibility of someone other than the Plan.

#### **13.3.1 Coordination of Benefits (COB)**

Coordination of benefits applies when a member has dental coverage under more than one plan. A complete explanation of COB is in Section 14.

#### **13.3.2 Third-Party Liability**

A member may have a legal right to recover benefit or healthcare costs from a third party as a result of an illness or injury for which such costs were paid by the Plan. The Plan does not cover benefits for which a third party may be legally liable, except for those related to a motor vehicle accident (see section 13.3.3 for motor vehicle accident recovery).

Because recovery from a third party may be difficult and take a long time, as a service to the member, the Plan will pay a member's expenses based on the understanding and agreement that the Plan is entitled to be reimbursed from any recovery the member may receive for any benefits it paid that are or may be recoverable from a third party, as defined below.

The member agrees that the Plan has the rights described in this Section. The Plan may seek recovery under one or more of the procedures outlined in this Section. The member agrees to do whatever is necessary to fully secure and protect, and to do nothing to prejudice, the Plan's right of recovery or subrogation as discussed in this Section. The Plan has discretion to interpret and construe these recovery and subrogation provisions.

##### **13.3.2.1 Definitions:**

For purposes of section 13.3.2, the following definitions apply:

**Benefits** means any amount paid by the Plan, or submitted for payment to or on behalf of a member. Bills, statements or invoices submitted by a provider to or on behalf of a member are considered requests for payment of benefits by the member.

**Third Party** means any person or entity responsible for the injury or illness, or the aggravation of an injury or illness, of a member. Third party includes any insurer of such person or entity, including different forms of liability insurance, or any other form of insurance that may pay

money to or on behalf of the member including uninsured motorist coverage, under-insured motorist coverage, premises med-pay coverage, personal injury protection (PIP) coverage, and workers' compensation insurance.

**Third Party Claim** means any claim, lawsuit, settlement, award, verdict, judgment, arbitration decision or other action against a third party (or any right to such an action) by or on behalf of a member.

#### **13.3.2.2 Subrogation**

Upon payment by the Plan, the Plan has the right to pursue the third party in its own name or in the name of the member. The member shall do whatever is necessary to secure such subrogation rights and do nothing to prejudice them. The Plan is entitled to all subrogation rights and remedies under common and statutory law, as well as under the Plan's provisions.

#### **13.3.2.3 Right of Recovery**

In addition to its subrogation rights, the Plan may, at its sole discretion and option, require a member, and the member's attorney, if any, to protect its recovery rights. The following rules apply to all recovery, except for those related to motor vehicle accidents (see section 13.3.3 for motor vehicle recovery rights):

- a. The member holds any rights of recovery against the third party in trust for the Plan, but only for the amount of benefits the Plan paid for that illness or injury.
- b. The Plan is entitled to receive the amount of benefits it has paid for an illness or injury out of any settlement or judgment that results from exercising the right of recovery against the third party. This is so whether or not the third party admits liability or claims that the member is also at fault. In addition, the Plan is entitled to receive the amount of benefits it has paid whether the dental expenses are itemized or expressly excluded in the third party recovery.
- c. If the Plan requires the member and the member's attorney to protect its recovery rights under this section, then the member may subtract from the money to be paid back to the Plan a proportionate share of reasonable attorney fees as an expense for collecting from the other party.
- d. This right of recovery includes the full amount of the benefits paid or pending payment by the Plan, out of any recovery made by the member from the third party, including without limitation any and all amounts paid or payable to the member (including the member's legal representatives, estate or heirs, or any trust established for the purpose of paying for the future income, care or medical expenses of the member), regardless of the characterization of the recovery, whether or not the member is made whole, or whether or not any amounts are paid or payable directly by the third party, an insurer or another source. The Plan's recovery rights will not be reduced due to the member's own negligence.
- e. If it is reasonable to expect that the member will incur future expenses for which benefits might be paid by the Plan, the member shall seek recovery of such future expenses in any third party claim.

### **13.3.2.5 Additional Provisions**

Members shall comply with the following and agree that Delta Dental may do one or more of the following, at its discretion:

- a. The member shall cooperate with Delta Dental to protect the Plan's recovery rights, including by:
  - i. Signing and delivering any documents Delta Dental reasonably requires to protect the Plan's rights, including a Third Party Questionnaire and Agreement. If the member has retained an attorney, then the attorney must also sign the agreement.
  - ii. Providing any information to Delta Dental relevant to the application of the provisions of section 13.3.2, including all information available to the member, or any representative or attorney representing the member, relating to the potential third party claim. This may include dental/medical information, settlement correspondence, copies of pleadings or demands, and settlement agreements, releases or judgments
  - iii. Notifying Delta Dental of the potential third party claim for which the Plan may issue benefits. The member has this responsibility even if the first request for payment of benefits is a bill or invoice submitted to Delta Dental by the member's provider.
  - iv. Taking such actions as Delta Dental may reasonably request to assist it in enforcing the Plan's third party recovery rights
- b. The member and the member's representatives are obligated to notify Delta Dental in advance of any claim (written or oral) and/or any lawsuit made against a third party seeking recovery of any damages from the third party, whether or not the member is seeking recovery of benefits paid by the Plan from the third party.
- c. By accepting payment of benefits by the Plan, the member agrees that the Plan has the right to intervene in any lawsuit or arbitration filed by or on behalf of a member seeking damages from a third party.
- d. The member agrees that Delta Dental may notify any third party, or third party's representatives or insurers, of the Plan's recovery rights described in section 13.3.2.
- e. Even without the member's written authorization, Delta Dental may release to, or obtain from, any other insurer, organization or person, any information it needs to carry out the provisions of section 13.3.2.
- f. Section 13.3.2 applies to any member for whom advance payment of benefits is made by the Plan whether or not the event giving rise to the member's injuries occurred before the member became covered by the Plan.
- g. If the member continues to receive treatment for an illness or injury after obtaining a settlement or recovery from a third party, the Plan will provide benefits for the continuing treatment of that illness or injury only to the extent that the member can establish that any sums that may have been recovered from the third party have been exhausted.
- h. If the member or the member's representatives fail to do any of the above mentioned acts, then the Plan has the right to not advance payment or to suspend payment of any benefits, or to recover any benefits it has advanced, for any sickness, illness, injury or

dental/medical condition resulting from the event giving rise to, or the allegations in, the third party claim, except for claims related to motor vehicle accidents (see section 13.3.3). The Plan may notify dental providers seeking authorization of payment of benefits that all payments have been suspended and may not be paid.

- i. Coordination of benefits (where the member has dental/medical coverage under more than one plan or health insurance policy) is not considered a third party claim.

### **13.3.3 Motor Vehicle Accident Recovery**

If a claim for healthcare expenses arising out of a motor vehicle accident is filed with Delta Dental and motor vehicle insurance has not yet paid, then the Plan will advance benefits. The Plan retains the right to repayment of any benefits paid from the proceeds of any settlement, judgment or other payment received by the member that exceeds the amount that fully compensates the member for their motor vehicle accident related injuries.

If the Plan requires the member and the member's attorney to protect its recovery rights under this section, then the member may subtract from the money to be paid back to the Plan a proportionate share of reasonable attorney fees as an expense for collecting from the other party.

The member shall do whatever is proper to secure, and may not prejudice, the rights of the Plan under this section.



## SECTION 14. COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

Coordination of Benefits (COB) occurs when a member has dental coverage under more than one plan.

### 14.1 DEFINITIONS

For purposes of Section 14, the following definitions apply:

**Plan** means any of the following that provides benefits or services for medical or dental care or treatment. If separate contracts are used to provide coordinated coverage for covered persons in a group, the separate contracts are considered parts of the same plan and there is no COB among those separate contracts. Separate contracts do not include dual coverage when the employee and the spouse of domestic partner are employed by the Group and are covered as both subscribers and dependents.

Plan includes:

- a. Group or individual insurance contracts and group-type contracts
- b. HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) coverage
- c. Coverage under a labor-management trustee plan, a union welfare plan, an employer organization plan or an employee benefits plan
- d. Medicare or other government programs, other than Medicaid, and any other coverage required or provided by law
- e. Other arrangements of insured or self-insured group or group-type coverage

Plan does not include:

- a. Fixed indemnity coverage
- b. Accident-only coverage
- c. Specified disease or specified accident coverage
- d. School accident coverage
- e. Medicare supplement policies
- f. Medicaid policies
- g. Coverage under other federal governmental plans, unless permitted by law

Each contract or other arrangement for coverage described above is a separate plan. If a plan has 2 parts and COB rules apply to only one of the 2, each of the parts is treated as a separate plan.

**Complying Plan** is a plan that follows these COB rules.

**Non-complying Plan** is a plan that does not comply with these COB rules.

**Claim** means a request that benefits of a plan be provided or paid.

**Allowable Expense** means a dental expense, including cost sharing, that is covered at least in part by any plan covering the member. When a plan provides benefits in the form of a service instead of cash payments, the reasonable cash value of the service will also be considered an allowable expense and a benefit paid. An expense that is not covered by any plan covering the

member is not an allowable expense. In addition, any expense that a provider by law or in accordance with a contractual agreement is prohibited from charging a member is not an allowable expense.

The following are examples of expenses that are **not** allowable expenses:

- a. The amount of the reduction by the primary plan because a member has not complied with the plan's requirements concerning second opinions or prior authorization, or because the member has a lower benefit due to not using an in-network provider
- b. Any amount in excess of the highest reimbursement amount for a specific benefit, if a member is covered by 2 or more plans that compute their benefit payments on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement methodology or other similar reimbursement methodology
- c. Any amount in excess of the highest of the negotiated fees, if a member is covered by 2 or more plans that provide benefits or services on the basis of negotiated fees
- d. If a member is covered by one plan that calculates its benefits on the basis of usual and customary fees or relative value schedule reimbursement methodology or other similar reimbursement methodology and another plan that provides its benefits on the basis of negotiated fees, the primary plan's arrangement shall be the allowable expense for all plans. However, if the provider has contracted with the secondary plan to provide the benefit for a specific negotiated fee or payment amount that is different than the primary plan's payment arrangement and if the provider's contract permits, the negotiated fee or payment shall be the allowable expense used by the secondary plan to determine its benefits

**This Plan** is the group health plan that provides benefits for dental expenses to which the COB provision applies and which may be reduced because of the benefits of other plans. Any other part of the group health plan providing dental benefits is separate from this Plan. A group health plan may apply one COB provision to certain benefits, coordinating only with similar benefits, and may apply another COB provision to coordinate other benefits.

**Closed Panel Plan** is a plan that provides dental benefits to covered persons primarily in the form of services through a network of providers that have contracted with or are employed by the plan, and that excludes coverage for services provided by other providers, except in cases of emergency or referral by an in-network provider.

**Custodial Parent** is the parent awarded custody by a court decree or, in the absence of a court decree, is the parent with whom the child resides more than one half of the calendar year excluding any temporary visitation.

## 14.2 How COB Works

If the member is covered by another plan or plans, the benefits under this Plan and the other plan(s) will be coordinated. This means one plan pays its full benefits first, then any other plan pays. The order of benefit determination rules govern the order in which each plan will pay a claim for benefits.

The **Primary Plan** (the plan that pays benefits first) pays the benefits that would be payable under its terms in the absence of this provision.

The **Secondary Plan** (the plan(s) that pay(s) benefits after the primary plan) will reduce the benefits it pays so that payments from all plans do not exceed 100% of the total allowable expense.

If the primary plan is a closed panel plan and the secondary plan is not a closed panel plan, the secondary plan shall provide benefits as if it were the primary plan when a member uses an out-of-network provider, except for emergency services or authorized referrals that are paid or provided by the primary plan.

This Plan will coordinate with a plan that is “excess” or “always secondary” or that uses order of benefit determination rules that are inconsistent with those contained in OAR 836-020-0770 to 836-020-0805 (non-complying plan) on the following basis:

- a. If this Plan is primary, it will provide its benefits first
- b. If this Plan is secondary and the non-complying plan does not provide its primary payment information within a reasonable time after it is requested to do so, this Plan will assume that the benefits of the non-complying plan are identical to this Plan’s benefits. This Plan may process its payment before the primary plan pays the claim. This Plan will process the claim based on an estimate of the primary plan’s benefit being equal to this Plan’s benefit
- c. If the non-complying plan reduces its benefits so that the member receives less in benefits than the member would have received had this Plan provided its benefits as the secondary plan and the non-complying plan provided its benefits as the primary plan, then this Plan shall advance additional benefits equal to the difference between the amount that was actually paid and the amount that should have been paid if the non-complying plan had not improperly reduced its benefits. Additional payment will be limited so that this Plan will not pay any more than it would have paid if it had been the primary plan. In consideration of such an advance, this Plan shall be subrogated to all rights of the member against the non-complying plan

### **14.3 ORDER OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION (WHICH PLAN PAYS FIRST?)**

The first of the following rules that applies will govern:

- a. **Non-dependent/Dependent.** If a plan covers the member as other than a dependent (e.g., an employee, member of an organization, primary insured, or retiree), then that plan will determine its benefits before a plan that covers the member as a dependent.
- b. **Dependent/Spouse (or Domestic Partner) and Parents.** For a dependent covered under plans of a spouse or domestic partner and the dependent’s parents, the spouse’s or domestic partner’s plan is primary. The order of the parents’ plans should follow the first applicable provision (c or d) below. This rule does not apply if the non-dependent/dependent rule can determine the order of benefits. Once future state or federal guidelines are issued to determine the order of coverage when a dependent is covered under plans of a spouse or domestic partner and the dependent’s parents.
- c. **Dependent Child/Parents Married, or Living Together.** If the member is a dependent child whose parents are married, or are living together whether or not they have ever been married, the plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in the calendar year is the primary plan. If both parents' birthdays are on the same day, the plan that has covered the parent the longest is the primary plan. (This is called the birthday rule.)

- d. **Dependent Child/Parents Separated or Divorced or Not Living Together.** If the member is a dependent child of divorced or separated parents, or parents not living together whether or not they have ever been married then the following rules apply:
- i. If a court decree states that one of the parents is responsible for the healthcare expenses of the child, and the plan of that parent has actual knowledge of those terms, that plan is primary. This rule applies to plan years commencing after the plan is given notice of the court decree.
  - ii. If a court decree states that both parents are responsible for the healthcare expenses of the child, or that the parents have joint custody without specifying that one parent is responsible, the 'birthday rule' described above applies.
  - iii. If there is not a court decree allocating responsibility for the child's healthcare expenses, the order of benefits is as follows: The plan covering the
    - A. Custodial parent;
    - B. Spouse or domestic partner of the custodial parent;
    - C. Non-custodial parent; and then
    - D. Spouse or domestic partner of the non-custodial parent.
- e. **Dependent Child Covered by Individual Other than Parent.** For a dependent child covered under more than one plan of persons who are not the parents of the child, the first applicable provision (c or d) above shall determine the order of benefits as if those persons were the parents of the child.
- f. **Dependent Child Coverage by Parent and Spouse/Domestic Partner.** For a dependent child covered under the plans of both a parent and a spouse/domestic partner, the length of coverage provision below shall determine the order of benefits. If coverage under either or both parents' plans and the spouse's/domestic partner's plan began on the same day, the birthday rule will apply.
- g. **Active/Retired or Laid Off Employee.** The plan that covers a member as an active employee (i.e. one who is neither laid off nor retired) or as that employee's dependent determines its benefits before those of a plan that covers the member as a laid off or retired employee (or as that employee's dependent). If the other plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of the benefits, this rule is ignored.
- h. **COBRA or State Continuation Coverage.** If a member whose coverage is provided under COBRA or under a right of continuation provided by state or other federal law is covered under another plan, the plan covering the member as an employee, member of an organization, primary insured, or retiree or as a dependent of the same, is the primary plan and the COBRA or other continuation coverage is the secondary plan. If the other plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of the benefits, this rule is ignored.
- i. **Longer/Shorter Length of Coverage.** The plan that covered a member longer is the primary plan and the plan that covered the member for the shorter period of time is the secondary plan.
- j. **None of the Above.** If the preceding rules do not determine the order of benefits, the allowable expenses shall be shared equally between the plans. In addition, this Plan will not pay more than it would have paid had it been the primary plan.

#### **14.4 EFFECT ON THE BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN**

When this Plan is secondary, it may reduce its benefits so that the total benefits paid or provided by all plans during a plan year are not more than the total allowable expenses. In determining the amount to be paid for any claim, the secondary plan will calculate the benefits it would have paid in the absence of other dental coverage and apply that calculated amount to any allowable expense under its plan that is unpaid by the primary plan. The secondary plan shall credit to its plan deductible any amounts it would have credited to its deductible in the absence of other dental coverage.

If the primary plan is a closed panel plan and the member uses an out-of-network provider, the secondary plan shall provide benefits as if it were the primary plan, except for emergency services or authorized referrals that are paid or provided by the primary plan.

## **SECTION 15. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **15.1 CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEMBER INFORMATION**

Keeping a member's protected health information confidential is very important to the Plan. Protected health information includes enrollment, claims, and medical and dental information. Delta Dental uses such information internally for claims payment, referrals and authorization of services, and business operations such as case management and quality management programs. Delta Dental does everything possible to protect this information. The Notice of Privacy Practices provides more details about how the Group uses member's information. Delta Dental, as the third party administrator, is required to adhere to these same practices. Members can contact the Group if they have additional questions about the privacy of their information beyond what is provided in the Notice of Privacy Practices.

### **15.2 CONTRACT PROVISIONS**

The agreement between the Group and Delta Dental including this handbook plus any endorsements or amendments are the entire contract between the parties. No promises, terms, conditions or obligations exist other than those contained in the contract. This handbook and the agreement plus any endorsements or amendments shall supersede all other communications, representations or agreements, either verbal or written between the parties. If any term, provision, agreement or condition is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated.

### **15.3 GOVERNING LAW**

To the extent the Plan is governed by state law, it shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Oregon.

### **15.4 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR DISCLAIMER**

Delta Dental and participating Delta Dental dentists are independent contractors. Delta Dental and participating Delta Dental dentists do not have a relationship of employer and employee nor of principal and agent. No relationship other than that of independent parties contracting with each other solely for the purpose of having a participating Delta Dental dentist provide dental care to members may be deemed or construed to exist between Delta Dental and participating Delta Dental dentists. A participating Delta Dental dentist is solely responsible for the dental care provided to any member, and Delta Dental does not control the detail, manner or methods by which a participating Delta Dental dentist provides care.

## **15.5 LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

Delta Dental shall incur no liability whatsoever to any member concerning the selection of dentists to provide services. In performing or contracting to perform dental service, such dentists shall be solely responsible, and in no case shall Delta Dental be liable for the negligence of any dentist providing such services. Nothing contained in the agreement between the Group and Delta Dental shall be construed as obligating Delta Dental to provide dental services.

## **15.6 No WAIVER**

Any waiver of any provision of the Plan, or any performance under the Plan, must be in writing and signed by the waiving party. Any such waiver shall not operate as, or be deemed to be, a waiver of any prior or future performance or enforcement of that provision or any other provision. If the Plan delays or fails to exercise any right, power or remedy provided in the Plan, including a delay or omission in denying a claim, that shall not waive the Plan's rights to enforce the provisions of the Plan.

## **15.7 PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENTS**

Dentists contracting with Delta Dental to provide services to members agree to look only to the Plan for payment of the part of the expense that is covered by the Plan and may not bill the member in the event the Plan fails to pay the dentist for whatever reason. The dentist may bill the member for applicable cost sharing or non-covered expenses except as may be restricted in the provider contract.

## **15.8 RECOVERY OF BENEFITS PAID BY MISTAKE**

If the Plan makes a payment for a member to which the member is not entitled, or pays a person who is not eligible for payments at all, the Plan has the right to recover the payment from the person paid or anyone else who benefited from it, including a provider. The Plan's right to recovery includes the right to deduct the amount paid from future benefits it would provide for a member even if the mistaken payment was not made on that member's behalf.

## **15.9 CORRECTION OF PAYMENTS**

If benefits that this Plan should have paid are instead paid by another plan, this Plan may reimburse the other plan. Amounts reimbursed are plan benefits and are treated like other plan benefits in satisfying the Plan's liability.

## **15.10 RIGHT TO COLLECT AND RELEASE NEEDED INFORMATION**

In order to receive benefits, the member must give or authorize a provider to give the Plan any information needed to pay benefits. The Plan may release to or collect from any person or organization any needed information about the member.

### **15.11 TIME LIMIT FOR FILING A LAWSUIT**

Any legal action arising out of, or related to, the Plan and filed against the Plan by a member or any third party, must be filed in court no more than 3 years after the time the claim was filed (see section 13.1). All internal levels of appeal under the Plan must be exhausted before filing a legal action in court.

### **15.12 TRANSFER OF BENEFITS**

Only members are entitled to benefits under the Plan. These benefits are not assignable or transferable to anyone else. Any attempted assignment or transfer will not be binding on Delta Dental or the Plan except that the Plan shall pay amounts due under the Plan directly to a provider upon a member's written request.

### **15.13 WARRANTIES**

All statements made by the Group or a member, unless fraudulent, are considered as representations and not warranties. No statement made for the purpose of obtaining coverage will void the coverage or reduce benefits unless contained in a written form and signed by the Group or the member, a copy of which has been given to the Group or member or the member's beneficiary.

### **15.14 WHERE ANY LEGAL ACTION MUST BE FILED**

Any legal action arising out of the Plan must be filed in either state or federal court in the state of Oregon.



## SECTION 16. CONTINUATION OF DENTAL COVERAGE

### 16.1 COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE

The following sections on continuation of coverage may apply. Members should check with the Group's benefits office to find out if they qualify for this coverage. Both subscribers and their enrolled dependents should read the following sections carefully.

#### 16.1.1 Introduction

The Plan will provide COBRA continuation coverage to members who have experienced a qualifying event and who elect coverage under COBRA, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Other than the exception to offer domestic partner coverage, the Plan is not obligated to offer greater rights than the COBRA statute requires
- b. The Plan will not provide COBRA coverage for members who do not comply with the requirements outlined below

#### 16.1.2 Qualifying Events

- a. **Subscriber.** A subscriber covered by the Plan may elect continuation coverage if coverage is lost because of termination of employment (other than termination for gross misconduct on the subscriber's part) or a reduction in hours.
- b. **Spouse or Domestic Partner.** The spouse or domestic partner of a subscriber has the right to continuation coverage if coverage is lost for any of the following qualifying events:
  - i. Death of the subscriber
  - ii. Termination of the subscriber's employment (for reasons other than gross misconduct) or reduction in a subscriber's hours of employment
  - iii. Divorce from the subscriber
  - iv. Termination or dissolution of a qualifying domestic partnership
  - v. The subscriber becomes entitled to Medicare

(If it can be established that a subscriber has eliminated coverage for the spouse in anticipation of a divorce, and a divorce later occurs, then the later divorce will be considered a qualifying event even though the ex-spouse lost coverage earlier. If the ex-spouse notifies the COBRA Administrator within 60 days of the later divorce COBRA coverage may be available for the period after the divorce.)

- c. **Children.** A child of a subscriber has the right to continuation coverage if coverage is lost for any of the following qualifying events:
  - i. Death of the subscriber
  - ii. Termination of the subscriber's employment (for reasons other than gross misconduct) or reduction in a subscriber's hours of employment with the Group
  - iii. Parent's divorce or termination of a qualifying domestic partnership
  - iv. The subscriber becomes entitled to Medicare
  - v. The child ceases to be a "child" under the Plan

### **16.1.3 Other Coverage**

The right to elect continuation coverage shall be available to persons who are covered under another group dental plan at the time of the election.

### **16.1.4 Notice and Election Requirements**

**Qualifying Event Notice.** A member's coverage will terminate on the date according to section 10.6 when a divorce or legal separation or termination or dissolution of domestic partnership occurs (spouse's or domestic partner's coverage is lost) or a child loses dependent status under the Plan (child loses coverage). Under COBRA regulations, the subscriber or a family member has the responsibility to notify the COBRA Administrator if one of these events occurs by email, mailing or hand-delivering a written notice to the COBRA Administrator. The notice must include the following:

- a. the name of the Group for the Plan
- b. the name and personal identification number of the member(s)
- c. the affected members
- d. the event (e.g. divorce)
- e. the date the event occurred

Notice must be given to the COBRA Administrator no later than 60 days after the event causing loss of coverage under the Plan occurs. Notice should be sent by email or mail to:

Multnomah County – Employee Benefits Office  
501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97214  
employee.benefits@multco.us

**Election Notice.** Members will be notified of their right to continuation coverage and the process for completing COBRA enrollment and premium payment within 14 days after the COBRA Administrator receives the notice. COBRA coverage is not in force until enrollment is complete and premium payment is made. If the subscriber or dependent fails to provide notice of a qualifying event within the 60 day period, COBRA continuation of coverage will not be available.

Otherwise, members will be notified by the COBRA Administrator of the right to elect COBRA continuation coverage within 14 days of any of the following events that result in a loss of coverage:

- a. the subscriber's termination of employment (other than for gross misconduct)
- b. The subscriber's reduction in hours
- c. death of the subscriber
- d. the subscriber's becoming entitled to Medicare

**Election Process (Member Responsibility).** A member must elect continuation coverage within 60 days after Plan coverage ends, or, if later, 60 days after the COBRA Administrator sends the member notice of the right to elect continuation coverage. If continuation coverage is not elected and paid for the group dental coverage will end on the date determined by the qualifying event. Elected COBRA coverage is not in force until premium has been paid.

A subscriber or the spouse may elect continuation coverage for eligible family members. However, each family member has an independent right to elect COBRA coverage. This means that a spouse or child may elect continuation coverage even if the subscriber does not.

If COBRA is elected, the Group will provide the same coverage as is available to similarly situated members under the Plan.

#### **16.1.5 COBRA Premiums**

Members eligible for continuation coverage do not have to show that they are insurable. However, they are responsible for all premiums for continuation coverage. The first payment for continuation coverage is due within 45 days after a member provides notice of electing coverage (this is the date the election notice is postmarked, if mailed, or the date the election notice is received by the COBRA Administrator, if hand-delivered). This payment must include the amount necessary to cover all months that have elapsed between the date regular coverage ended and the COBRA premium payment date.

Subsequent monthly premium payments are due on the first day of the coverage month. For example, premium for October coverage is due on October 1. However, there will be a grace period of 30 days to pay the premiums (for example, a member would have until October 31st to pay the October premium). Payment of premium received after the due date but within the grace period may result in delayed access to coverage. Monthly eligibility is not updated until premium payment is received.

The COBRA administrator will not send a monthly bill for any payments due. The member is responsible for paying the applicable premiums, in good funds, when due; **otherwise continuation coverage will end and may not be reinstated**. The premium rate may include a 2% add-on to cover administrative expenses.

#### **16.1.6 Length of Continuation Coverage**

**18-Month Continuation Period.** In the case of a loss of coverage due to end of employment (other than for gross misconduct) or a reduction of hours of employment, coverage generally may be continued for up to a total of 18 months.

#### **36 Month Continuation Period.**

In the case of a coverage loss due to a subscriber's death, divorce, termination or dissolution of a qualified domestic partnership, or a child ceasing to be a dependent under the terms of the Plan, coverage under the Plan may be continued for up to a total of 36 months.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment (other than for gross misconduct) or reduction of the subscriber's hours of employment, and the subscriber became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA coverage under the Plan for members (other than the subscriber) who lose coverage as a result of the qualifying event can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. This COBRA coverage period is available only if the subscriber becomes entitled to Medicare within 18 months BEFORE the termination or reduction of hours.

#### **16.1.7 Extending the Length of COBRA Coverage**

If COBRA is elected, an extension of the maximum period of coverage may be available if a member is disabled or a second qualifying event occurs. The COBRA Administrator must be notified of a disability or a second qualifying event in order to extend the period of COBRA coverage. If the member fails to provide notice of a disability or second qualifying event to the COBRA Administrator, the member will lose the right to extend the period of COBRA coverage.

**Disability.** If any of the members is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled, the maximum COBRA coverage period that results from a subscriber's termination of employment or reduction of hours may be extended to a total of up to 29 months. The disability must have started at some time before the 61st day of the COBRA coverage period and the Social Security Administration determination must be made before the end of the initial 18-month COBRA coverage period. Each family member who has elected COBRA coverage will be entitled to the disability extension if one of them qualifies.

The disability extension is available only if the COBRA Administrator is notified in writing of the Social Security Administration's determination of disability within 60 days after the latest of:

- a. the date of the Social Security Administration's disability determination
- b. the date of the subscriber's termination of employment or reduction of hours
- c. the date on which the member loses (or would lose) coverage under the terms of the Plan as a result of the subscriber's termination or reduction of hours

A member must provide the COBRA Administrator a copy of the Social Security Administration's determination within the 18-month period following the subscriber's termination of employment or reduction of hours, and not later than 60 days after the Social Security Administration's determination was made. If the notice is not provided within this timeframe, then there will be no disability extension of COBRA coverage. The premium for COBRA coverage may increase after the 18th month of coverage to 150% of the premium.

If the Social Security Administration determines the member is no longer disabled, the disability extension ends. The member must notify the COBRA Administrator no more than 30 days after the Social Security Administration's determination that they are no longer disabled.

**Second Qualifying Event:** An extension of coverage will be available to spouses or domestic partners and children who are receiving COBRA coverage if a second qualifying event occurs during the 18 months (or, in the case of a disability extension, the 29 months) following the subscriber's termination of employment or reduction of hours. The maximum amount of COBRA coverage available when a second qualifying event occurs is 36 months from the date of the first qualifying event. Such second qualifying events may include the death of a subscriber, divorce, termination of a qualified domestic partnership from the subscriber, or a child's ceasing to be eligible for coverage as a dependent under the Plan. These events can be a second qualifying event only if they would have caused the member to lose coverage under the Plan if the first qualifying event had not occurred. (This extension is not available under the Plan when a subscriber becomes entitled to Medicare after termination of employment or reduction of hours).

This extension due to a second qualifying event is available only if the COBRA Administrator is notified in writing of the second qualifying event within 60 days after the date of the second qualifying event. If this notice is not provided to the COBRA Administrator during the 60-day notice period, then there will be no extension of COBRA coverage due to a second qualifying event.

**Note:** A longer period for continuation coverage may be available under Oregon Law for a subscriber's spouse or state registered domestic partner age 55 and older who loses coverage due to the subscriber's death, or due to legal separation or divorce or dissolution of an Oregon state registered domestic partnership (see section 12.6.13).

#### **16.1.8 Newborn or Adopted Child**

If, during the COBRA continuation coverage period, a child is born to or placed for adoption with a subscriber, the child is considered a qualified beneficiary. The subscriber may elect continuation coverage for the child provided the child satisfies the otherwise applicable Plan eligibility requirements (for example, age). The subscriber or a family member must notify the COBRA Administrator within 60 days of the birth or placement to obtain continuation coverage. Enrollment of an additional dependent may increase the cost of coverage. If the subscriber or family member fails to notify the COBRA Administrator in a timely manner, the child will not be eligible for continuation coverage.

#### **16.1.9 Special Enrollment and Open Enrollment**

Members under continuation coverage have the same rights afforded similarly-situated members who are not enrolled in COBRA. A member may add children, spouse or domestic partner as enrolled dependents in accordance with the Plan's eligibility and enrollment rules, including HIPAA special enrollment. If non-COBRA members can change plans at open enrollment, COBRA members may also change plans at open enrollment.

#### **16.1.10 When Continuation Coverage Ends**

COBRA coverage will automatically terminate before the end of the maximum period if:

- a. The Group no longer provides health coverage to any of its employees
- b. The required premium is not paid in full on time
- c. A member becomes covered under another group health plan
- d. A members becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both) after electing COBRA
- e. During a disability extension period (see section 16.1.7), the disabled member is determined by the Social Security Administration to be no longer disabled (COBRA coverage for all members, not just the disabled member, will end)

COBRA coverage may also be terminated for any reason the Plan would terminate coverage of a member not receiving COBRA coverage (such as fraud).

Questions about COBRA should be directed to the COBRA Administrator. Members should notify the COBRA Administrator if there is a changed marital status a change of addresses, or other changes that may impact eligibility for COBRA continuation coverage.

# Nondiscrimination notice

**We follow federal civil rights laws. We do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, age, disability, gender identity, sex or sexual orientation.**

We provide free services to people with disabilities so that they can communicate with us. These include sign language interpreters and other forms of communication.

If your first language is not English, we will give you free interpretation services and/or materials in other languages.

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**If you need any of the above, call Customer Service at:**

888-217-2365 (TDD/TTY 711)

**If you think we did not offer these services or discriminated, you can file a written complaint. Please mail or fax it to:**

Delta Dental of Oregon and Alaska  
Attention: Appeal Unit  
601 SW Second Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204  
Fax: 503-412-4003

**If you need help filing a complaint, please call Customer Service.**

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights at [ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf](https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf), or by mail or phone:

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

You can get Office for Civil Rights complaint forms at [hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html](https://hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html).

**Dave Nesseler-Cass coordinates our nondiscrimination work:**

Dave Nesseler-Cass,  
Chief Compliance Officer  
601 SW Second Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204  
855-232-9111  
[compliance@modahealth.com](mailto:compliance@modahealth.com)

Dental plans in Oregon provided by Oregon Dental Service, dba Delta Dental Plan of Oregon. Dental plans in Alaska provided by Delta Dental of Alaska. 0569 (8/20)

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, hay disponibles servicios de ayuda con el idioma sin costo alguno para usted. Llame al 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711).

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói tiếng Việt, có dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí cho bạn. Gọi 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

注意：如果您說中文，可得到免費語言幫助服務。請致電1-877-605-3229（聾啞人專用：711）

주의: 한국어로 무료 언어 지원 서비스를 이용하시려면 다음 연락처로 연락해주시기 바랍니다. 전화 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, ang mga serbisyong tulong sa wika, ay walang bayad, at magagamit mo. Tumawag sa numerong 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث العربية، فهناك خدمات مساعدة لغوية متاحة لك مجانًا. اتصل برقم (الهاتف النصي: 711) 1-877-605-3229

ہوتے ہیں تو لانی (URDU) توجہ دیں: اگر آپ اردو اعانت آپ کے لیے بلا معاوضہ دستیاب ہے۔ 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711) پر کال کریں

ВНИМАНИЕ! Если Вы говорите по-русски, воспользуйтесь бесплатной языковой поддержкой. Позвоните по тел. 1-877-605-3229 (текстовый телефон: 711).

ATTENTION : si vous êtes locuteurs francophones, le service d'assistance linguistique gratuit est disponible. Appelez au 1-877-605-3229 (TTY : 711)

توجہ: در صورتی کہ بہ فارسی صحبت می کنید، خدمات ترجمہ بہ صورت رایگان برای شما موجود است. با (TTY: 711) 1-877-605-3229 تماس بگیرید.

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिंदी बोलते हैं, तो आपको भाषाई सहायता बिना कोई पैसा दिए उपलब्ध है। 1-877-605-3229 पर कॉल करें (TTY: 711)

Achtung: Falls Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos Sprachassistentendienste zur Verfügung. Rufen sie 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

注意：日本語をご希望の方には、日本語サービスを無料で提供しております。1-877-605-3229（TTY、テレタイプライターをご利用の方は711）までお電話ください。

અગત્યનું: જો તમે (ભાષાંતર કરેલ ભાષા અહીં દર્શાવો) બોલો છો તો તે ભાષામાં તમારે માટે વિના મૂલ્યે સહાય ઉપલબ્ધ છે. 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711) પર કૉલ કરો

ໂບດຊາບ: ຖ້າທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາລາວ, ການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາແມ່ນມີໃຫ້ທ່ານໂດຍບໍ່ເສັຍຄ່າ. ໂທ 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

УВАГА! Якщо ви говорите українською, для вас доступні безкоштовні консультації рідною мовою. Зателефонуйте 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

ATENȚIE: Dacă vorbiți limba română, vă punem la dispoziție serviciul de asistență lingvistică în mod gratuit. Sunați la 1-877-605-3229 (TTY 711)

THOV CEEB TOOM: Yog hais tias koj hais lus Hmoob, muaj cov kev pab cuam txhais lus, pub dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

ត្រូវចងចាំ: បើអ្នកនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ ហើយត្រូវការសេវាកម្មជំនួយផ្នែកភាសាដោយឥតគិតថ្លៃ គឺមានផ្តល់ជូនលោកអ្នក។ សូមទូរស័ព្ទទៅកាន់លេខ 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

HUBACHIISA: Yoo afaan Kshtik kan dubbattan ta'e tajaajiloonni gargaarsaa isiniif jira 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711) tiin bilbilaa.

โปรดทราบ: หากคุณพูดภาษาไทย คุณสามารถใช้บริการช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาได้ฟรี โทร 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

FA'AUTAGIA: Afai e te tautala i le gagana Samoa, o loo avanoa fesoasoani tau gagana mo oe e le totogia. Vala'au i le 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

IPANGAG: Nu agsasaoka iti llocano, sidadaan ti tulong iti lengguahe para kenka nga awan bayadna. Umawag iti 1-877-605-3229 (TTY: 711)

UWAGA: Dla osób mówiących po polsku dostępna jest bezpłatna pomoc językowa. Zadzwon: 1-877-605-3229 (obsługa TTY: 711)



For help, call us directly at 888-447-8194  
(En Español: 877-299-9063)

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