



Our mission is to reduce the disparities in dental health care by providing preventive and basic dental services, education, and outreach programs to low income, uninsured, and underinsured children and adults.

Medical Assistance Dental Benefit Changes

- Adult dental benefits are optional services under Medicaid; federal rules do not require states to cover these services for adult Medicaid recipients.
- Adult dental benefits are among the most costly optional benefits, in terms of expenditures, under Pennsylvania’s Medicaid program.
- Although the adult dental benefits are optional, and Pennsylvania could eliminate the full scope of the adult dental benefit, dental benefit changes end or limit coverage only for specific high-cost services/items within the larger scope of the adult dental benefit, while still preserving a core preventive adult dental service benefit.
- The benefit changes will be effective September 30, 2011, and apply only to adults (age 21 and older), NOT to children.
- Additionally, the dental benefit changes will not apply to adults who live in the nursing facility, ICF/MR and ICF/ORC settings.
- We recognize that limiting these services could result in serious health complications for some adults, and for that reason we are also implementing a benefit limit exceptions (BLE) process whereby the Department may approve services affected by the dental limits.
- Even with the adult dental benefit changes, there will be a substantial “safety-net” available through the exceptions process, to minimize health complications and unintended cost-shifts to other services.
- The adult dental benefit changes:
- Dental exams and prophylaxis are limited to 1 per 180 days, per recipient. Additional exams and prophylaxis require a BLE.
- Adult MA recipients will only be eligible for crowns, endodontic and periodontal services with an approved BLE request.
- Coverage of dentures is limited to one upper arch (full or partial denture), and one lower arch (full or partial denture), per lifetime. Additional dentures require a BLE.
- Changes apply to dental services provided to all adult MA recipients except for those residing in nursing facilities, ICFs/MR and ICFs/ORC.

Number and percentage of MA recipients affected:

Eligible Adult MA Recipients in FY 09-10:	1,211,574
Dental Eligible Adults in FY 09-10:	978,251
MA Adult Recipients Receiving Dental Services in FY 09-10:	276,681
Percentage of Dental Eligible Adults Who Received Any Dental Services in FY 09-10:	28.28%
Percentage of FFS Dental Eligible Adults, FY 09-10, Who Received Dental Services That Would Have Been Beyond the New Dental Benefit Limits/Changes	3.2%

744 E. Lincoln Hwy, Ste 120 – Coatesville, PA 19320
Phone: 610-383-3888 – Fax: 610-383-4688