



Four Things You Should Know About the New Medicare Dental Rule



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1. Before January 1, 2023, Medicare would pay for a dental exam

only for patients who were actively seeking a kidney transplant. **Now**, the new Medicare dental rule will pay for a dental exam and dental treatment (e.g., dental filling, teeth removal, replacement of teeth, etc.) for patients actively seeking any organ transplant. If you are living with kidney disease—with or without dialysis—Medicare will not pay for preventative care, like teeth cleanings.

What this means for you: If you have Medicare and are actively seeking transplant, meaning you are undergoing transplant workup or are

actively on the transplant waitlist, you have more dental coverage now than you did before January 1, 2023.

2. Only 3 to 4 percent (%) of practicing dentists are enrolled as a Medicare provider, meaning these providers accept Medicare as payment for dental services.

Medicare will pay for dental exams and treatments only done by dentists, including oral surgeons, who are enrolled in Medicare.

What this means for you: If your current dentist is not enrolled in Medicare, your Medicare insurance will not pay for services performed by your dentist. When scheduling an appointment with a dentist always ask if they accept Medicare Part A or Part B for payment.

• If your dentist would like to enroll in

Medicare as a provider or supplier: Forms are available [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

• If your dentist has questions about enrolling in Medicare and would like to talk with a Medicare Fee-for-Service Provider Enrollment contractor in your state: Contact list available [HERE](#)

3. As of February 2023, 40 states (including DC) have adopted Medicaid expansion. Medicaid expansion offers Medicaid-eligible adults dental benefits. The benefits Medicaid-eligible adults receive differ based on the state in which they live. Although most states have adopted the Medicaid expansion, only 39 percent (%) of dentists throughout the United States accept Medicaid as payment for dental services.

What this means for you: Not all

dentists accept Medicaid. However, if you have state Medicaid you will have an easier time finding a dentist who will treat you than if you have Medicare as your only insurance. When scheduling an appointment with a dentist always ask if they accept your state's Medicaid as payment.

What this means for you: Have your doctor or transplant team send a referral to the dentist before receiving dental treatment. The communication between the doctor and dentist is one of the most important steps to having your dental services paid for by Medicare.



Location	Status of Medicaid Expansion Decision
United States	Adopted-40 state (incl. DC); Not Adopted-11 states
Alabama	Not Adopted
Alaska	Adopted
Arizona	Adopted
California	Adopted
Colorado	Adopted
Connecticut	Adopted
Delaware	Adopted
District of Columbia	Adopted
Florida	Not Adopted
Georgia	Not Adopted
Hawaii	Adopted
Idaho	Adopted
Illinois	Adopted
Indiana	Adopted
Iowa	Adopted
Kansas	Not Adopted
Kentucky	Adopted
Louisiana	Adopted
Maine	Adopted
Maryland	Adopted
Massachusetts	Adopted
Michigan	Adopted
Minnesota	Adopted
Mississippi	Not Adopted

Location	Status of Medicaid Expansion Decision
United States	Adopted-40 state (incl. DC); Not Adopted-11 states
Missouri	Adopted
Montana	Adopted
Nebraska	Adopted
Nevada	Adopted
New Hampshire	Adopted
New Jersey	Adopted
New Mexico	Adopted
New York	Adopted
North Carolina	Not Adopted
North Dakota	Adopted
Ohio	Adopted
Oklahoma	Adopted
Oregon	Adopted
Pennsylvania	Adopted
Rhode Island	Adopted
South Carolina	Not Adopted
South Dakota	Adopted
Tennessee	Not Adopted
Texas	Not Adopted
Utah	Adopted

Location	Status of Medicaid Expansion Decision
United States	Adopted-40 state (incl. DC); Not Adopted-11 states
Vermont	Adopted
Virginia	Adopted
Washington	Adopted
West Virginia	Adopted
Wisconsin	Not Adopted
Wyoming	Not Adopted

- If you are seeking dental services as a person with Medicare insurance who is actively seeking transplant, it is important that your primary care doctor or transplant team speak with your dentist **before** you receive dental services. Communication between the dentist and your primary care doctor or transplant team is important to making sure your dental care will be paid for.

What this means for you: Have your doctor or transplant team send a referral to the dentist before receiving dental treatment. The communication between the doctor and dentist is one of the most important steps to having your dental services paid for by Medicare.

References:

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- Kaiser Family Foundation. (2023). *Status of state action on the Medicaid expansion decision* [Fact sheet]. <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>
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