

2008 Dental Plan Changes and Enhancements



Dental Plan Sealant Benefit to be Enhanced

Our group dental plan is being improved to provide sealant coverage for primary molars and other permanent molars for patients 6-19 years of age, covered under the diagnostic and preventive services category of the plan.

We've made this enhancement because science has shown that applying sealants to children and young adults significantly reduces the risk of cavities. Sealants are especially encouraged for children who have had cavities in either their primary molars or other permanent molars. Considering the lifetime cost of a single cavity is more than \$2,000 (fillings need to be replaced on a regular basis, and often ultimately result in the placement of a crown), protecting teeth with sealants is a good investment.



X-Ray Frequency Benefit to be Changed

In 2004, the guidelines for routine dental radiographs were revised by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Food and Drug Administration and the American Dental Association. These groups recommended that patients at a low risk of chronic diseases such as cavities and periodontal disease receive less frequent exposure to dental x-rays.

In line with those recommendations, the benefit for x-ray frequency under our group dental plan is being changed to cover bitewing x-rays one time per 12-month period, and full-mouth x-rays once each 5 years for all patients.

