



Delta Dental Insurance Company

**ALABAMA GROCERS  
ASSOCIATION**



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[deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com)

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**Group No: 21119**

**Effective Date: January 1, 2021**

**ENT-PPO-AL-E**

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## INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to welcome you to the group dental plan for **Alabama Grocers Association**. Your plan is underwritten and administered by Delta Dental Insurance Company ("Delta Dental"). Our goal is to provide you with the highest quality dental care and to help you maintain good dental health. We encourage you not to wait until you have a problem to see the Provider, but to see him/her on a regular basis.

### Using This Evidence of Coverage

This Evidence of Coverage booklet, which includes Attachment A, Deductibles, Maximums and Contract Benefit Levels (Attachment A) and Attachment B, Services, Limitations and Exclusions (Attachment B), discloses the terms and conditions of your coverage and is designed to help you make the most of your dental plan. It will help you understand how the plan works and how to obtain dental care. Please read this booklet completely and carefully. Keep in mind that "you" and "your" mean the individuals who are covered. "We," "us" and "our" always refer to Delta Dental. In addition, please read the Definitions section, which will explain any words that have special or technical meanings under the Contract.

The benefit explanations contained in this booklet are subject to all provisions of the Contract on file with your employer, trust fund, or other entity ("Contractholder") and do not modify the terms and conditions of the Contract in any way, nor shall you accrue any rights because of any statement in or omission from this booklet. This booklet is *not* a Summary Plan Description to meet the requirements of ERISA.

**Notice:** *This booklet is a summary of your group dental plan and must be in effect at the time covered dental services are provided. This information is not a guarantee of covered benefits, services or payments.*

### Contact Us

For more information please visit our website at [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com) or call our Customer Service Center. A Customer Service Representative can answer questions you may have about obtaining dental care, help you locate a Delta Dental Provider, explain benefits, check the status of a claim, and assist you in filing a claim.

You can access our automated information line at 800-521-2651 during regular business hours to obtain information about Enrollee eligibility and benefits, group benefits, or claim status, or to speak to a Customer Service Representative for assistance. If you prefer to write us with your question(s), please mail your inquiry to the following address:

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



Michael G. Hankinson, Esq., President

## DEFINITIONS

Terms when capitalized in your Evidence of Coverage booklet have defined meanings, given in the section below or throughout the booklet sections.

**Accepted Fee:** the amount the attending Provider agrees to accept as payment in full for services rendered.

**Benefits:** covered dental services provided under the terms of the Contract.

**Calendar Year:** the 12 months of the year from January 1 through December 31.

**Claim Form:** the standard form used to file a claim or request Pre-Treatment Estimate.

**Contract:** the agreement between Delta Dental and the Contractholder, including any attachments.

**Contract Benefit Level:** the percentage of the Maximum Contract Allowance that Delta Dental will pay after the Deductible has been satisfied as shown in Attachment A.

**Contractholder:** the employer, union or other organization or group as named herein contracting to obtain Benefits.

**Contract Year:** the 12 months starting on the Effective Date and each subsequent 12 month period thereafter.

**Deductible:** a dollar amount that an Enrollee and/or the Enrollee's family (for family coverage) must pay for certain covered services before Delta Dental begins paying Benefits.

**Delta Dental Premier<sup>®</sup> Provider (Premier Provider):** a Provider who contracts with Delta Dental or any other member company of the Delta Dental Plans Association and agrees to accept the Delta Dental Premier Contracted Fee as payment in full for covered services provided under a plan. A Premier Provider also agrees to comply with Delta Dental's administrative guidelines.

**Delta Dental Premier Contracted Fee:** the fee for a Single Procedure covered under the Contract that a Premier Provider has contractually agreed to accept as payment in full for covered services.

**Delta Dental PPO<sup>SM</sup> Provider (PPO Provider):** a Provider who contracts with Delta Dental or any other member company of the Delta Dental Plans Association and agrees to accept the Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fee contracted fees as payment in full for covered services provided under a PPO dental plan. A PPO Provider also agrees to comply with Delta Dental's administrative guidelines.

**Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fee:** the fee for a Single Procedure covered under the contract that a PPO Provider has contractually agreed to accept as payment in full for covered services.

**Dependent Enrollee:** an Eligible Dependent enrolled to receive Benefits.

**Effective Date:** the original date the Contract starts. This date is given on this booklet's cover and Attachment A.

**Eligible Dependent:** a dependent of an Eligible Employee eligible for Benefits.

**Eligible Employee:** any employee or retiree as eligible for Benefits.

**Enrollee:** an Eligible Employee ("Primary Enrollee") or an Eligible Dependent ("Dependent Enrollee") enrolled to receive Benefits.

**Enrollee Pays:** Enrollee's financial obligation for services calculated as the difference between the amount shown as the Accepted Fee and the portion shown as "Delta Dental Pays" on the claims statement when a claim is processed.

**Enrollee's Effective Date of Coverage:** the date the Contractholder reports coverage will begin for each Primary Enrollee and each Dependent Enrollee.

**Maximum:** is the maximum dollar amount (“Maximum Amount” or “Maximum”) Delta Dental will pay toward the cost of dental care. Enrollees must satisfy costs above this amount. Delta Dental will pay the Maximum Amount(s), if applicable, shown in Attachment A for Benefits under the Contract.

**Maximum Contract Allowance:** the reimbursement under the Enrollee’s benefit plan against which Delta Dental calculates its payment and the Enrollee’s financial obligation. Subject to adjustment for extreme difficulty or unusual circumstances, the Maximum Contract Allowance for services provided:

- by a PPO Provider is the lesser of the Provider’s Submitted Fee or the Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fee.
- by a Premier Provider is the lesser of the Provider’s Submitted Fee or the Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fee for a PPO Provider in the same geographic area.
- by a Non-Delta Dental Provider is the lesser of the Provider’s Submitted Fee or the Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fee for a PPO Provider in the same geographic area.

**Non-Delta Dental Provider:** a Provider who is not a PPO Provider or a Premier Provider and is not contractually bound to abide by Delta Dental’s administrative guidelines.

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

**Pre-Treatment Estimate:** an estimation of the allowable Benefits under the Contract for the services proposed, assuming the person is an eligible Enrollee.

**Primary Enrollee:** an Eligible Employee enrolled in the plan to receive Benefits; may also be referred to as “Enrollee”.

**Procedure Code:** the Current Dental Terminology® (CDT) number assigned to a Single Procedure by the American Dental Association.

**Program Allowance:** the maximum amount Delta Dental will reimburse for a covered procedure. Delta Dental sets the Program Allowance for each procedure through a review of proprietary data by geographic area. The Program Allowance may vary by the contracting status of the Provider and/or the Program Allowance selected by the Contractholder.

**Provider:** a person licensed to practice dentistry when and where services are performed. A Provider shall also include a dental partnership, dental professional corporation or dental clinic.

**Qualifying Status Change:** a change in:

- marital status (marriage, divorce, legal separation, annulment or death);
- number of dependents (a child’s birth, adoption of a child, placement of child for adoption, addition of a step or foster child or death of a child);
- employment status (change in employment status of Enrollee or Eligible Dependent);
- dependent child ceases to satisfy eligibility requirements;
- residence (Enrollee, dependent Spouse or child moves);
- a court order requiring dependent coverage; or
- any other current or future election changes permitted by Internal Revenue Code Section 125.

**Single Procedure:** a dental procedure that is assigned a separate Procedure Code.

**Spouse:** a person related to or a partner of the Primary Enrollee:

- as defined and as may be required to be treated as a Spouse by the laws of the state where the Contract is issued and delivered;
- as defined and as may be required to be treated as a Spouse by the laws of the state where the Primary Enrollee resides; and
- as may be recognized by the Contractholder.

**Submitted Fee:** the amount that the Provider bills and enters on a claim for a specific procedure.

## PREMIUMS

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

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

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

## ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

### Eligibility Requirements

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

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

- Dependents are the Primary Enrollee's Spouse and dependent children from birth to age 26.
- Children include natural children, stepchildren, foster children, adopted children, children placed for adoption and children of a partner as recognized by the Contractholder. The dependents of Primary Enrollees are eligible to enroll on the same date that the employee, of whom they are a Dependent, becomes a Primary Enrollee. Later-acquired dependents become eligible as soon as they acquire dependent status.
- An overage dependent child may be eligible if:
  - (1) he or she is incapable of self-sustaining employment because of a physically or mentally disabling injury, illness or condition that began prior to reaching the limiting age;
  - (2) he or she is chiefly dependent on the eligible employee for support; and
  - (3) proof of dependent child's disability is provided within 31 days of request. Such requests will not be made more than once a year following a two year period after this dependent reaches the limiting age. Eligibility will continue as long as the dependent relies on the eligible employee for support because of a physically or mentally disabling injury, illness or condition that began before he or she reached the limiting age.

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

### Enrollment Requirements

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

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

- You must enroll within 31 days after the date you become eligible or during an Open Enrollment Period.
- All dependents must be enrolled within 31 days after they become eligible or during an Open Enrollment Period.
- If you elect dependent coverage, you must enroll all of your Dependent Enrollees for coverage.
- You must pay Premiums in the manner elected by the Contractholder and approved by us. Coverage cannot be dropped or changed other than during an Open Enrollment Period or because of a Qualifying Status Change.
- If you pay Premiums for your Dependent Enrollees, you must pay the Premiums in the manner elected by the Contractholder and approved by us until your dependents are no longer eligible

or until you choose to drop dependent coverage. Coverage may not be changed at any time other than during an Open Enrollment Period or if there is a Qualifying Status Change.

- A child who is eligible as a Primary Enrollee and a dependent can be insured under the Contract as a Primary Enrollee or as a Dependent Enrollee but not both at the same time.

### **Loss of Eligibility**

Your coverage ends on the earlier of the last day of the month you stop working for the Contractholder, are no longer an Eligible Employee of the Contractholder or immediately when the Contract ends. Your Spouse loses coverage when your coverage ends or when dependent status is lost. Your dependent children lose coverage when your coverage ends or the last day of the month when dependent status is lost.

### **Continuation of Benefits**

We will not pay for any services/treatment received after your coverage ends. However, we will pay for covered services incurred while you were eligible if the procedures were completed within 31 days of the date your coverage ended.

A dental service is incurred:

- for an appliance (or change to an appliance), at the time the impression is made;
- for a crown, bridge or cast restoration, at the time the tooth or teeth are prepared;
- for root canal therapy, at the time the pulp chamber is opened; and
- for all other dental services, at the time the service is performed or the supply furnished.

### **Strike, Lay-off and Leave of Absence**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Continued Coverage under USERRA**

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

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

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

### **Continuation of Coverage Under COBRA**

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

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

## **CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH BENEFITS ARE PROVIDED**

We will pay Benefits for the dental services described in Attachment B. We will pay Benefits only for covered services. The Contract covers several categories of dental services when a Provider provides them and when they are necessary and within the standards of generally accepted dental practice standards. Claims will be processed in accordance with our standard processing policies. The processing policies may be revised at the beginning of a Calendar Year to comply with annual CDT changes made by the American Dental Association and to reflect changes in generally accepted dental practice standards. Delta Dental will provide advance notice of such changes to the Contractholder who will then distribute to Primary Enrollees.

We will use the processing policies that are in effect at the time the claim is processed. We may use dentists (dental consultants) to review treatment plans, diagnostic materials and/or prescribed treatments to determine generally accepted dental practices and to determine if treatment has a favorable prognosis. Limitations and Exclusions will be applied for the period the person is an Enrollee under any Delta Dental program or prior dental care program provided by the Contractholder subject to receipt of such information from the Contractholder or at the time a claim is submitted. Additional eligibility periods, if any, are listed in Attachment A. If you receive dental services from a Provider outside the state of Alabama, the Provider will be paid according to Delta Dental's network payment provisions for said state according to the terms of the Contract.

If a primary dental procedure includes component procedures that are performed at the same time as the primary procedure, the component procedures are considered to be part of the primary procedure for purposes of determining the Benefit payable under the Contract. Even if the Provider bills separately for the primary procedure and each of its component parts, the total Benefit payable for all related charges will be limited to the maximum Benefit payable for the primary procedure.

### **Enrollee Coinsurance**

We will pay a percentage of the Maximum Contract Allowance for covered services, as shown in Attachment A and you are responsible for paying the balance. What you pay is called the enrollee coinsurance ("Enrollee Coinsurance") and is part of your out-of-pocket cost. You pay this even after a Deductible has been met.

The amount of your Enrollee Coinsurance will depend on the type of service and the Provider providing the service (see section titled "Selecting Your Provider"). Providers are required to collect Enrollee Coinsurance for covered services. Your group has chosen to require Enrollee Coinsurances under this program as a method of sharing the costs of providing dental Benefits between the Contractholder and Enrollees. If the Provider discounts, waives or rebates any portion of the Enrollee Coinsurance to you, we will be obligated to provide as Benefits only the applicable percentages of the Provider's fees or allowances reduced by the amount of the fees or allowances that are discounted, waived or rebated.

It is to your advantage to select PPO Providers because they have agreed to accept the Maximum Contract Allowance as payment in full for covered services, which typically results in lower out-of-pocket costs for you. Please refer to the section titled "Selecting Your Provider" for more information.

### **Deductible**

Your dental plan features a Deductible. This is an amount you must pay out-of-pocket before Benefits are paid. The Deductible amounts are listed in Attachment A. Deductibles apply to all benefits unless otherwise noted. Only the Provider's fees you pay for covered Benefits will count toward the Deductible.

### **Maximum Amount**

Most dental plans have a Maximum Amount. A Maximum Amount is the maximum dollar amount we will pay toward the cost of dental care. You are responsible for paying costs above this amount. The Maximum Amount payable is shown in Attachment A. Maximums may apply on a yearly basis, a per services basis, or a lifetime basis.

### **Pre-Treatment Estimate**

Pre-Treatment Estimate requests are not required; however, your Provider may file a Claim Form before beginning treatment, showing the services to be provided to you. We will estimate the amount of Benefits payable under the Contract for the listed services. By asking your Provider for a Pre-Treatment Estimate from us before you agree to receive any prescribed treatment, you will have an estimate up front of what we will pay and the difference you will need to pay. The Benefits will be processed according to the terms of the Contract when the treatment is actually performed. Pre-Treatment Estimates are valid for 365 days unless other services are received after the date of the Pre-Treatment Estimate, or until an earlier occurrence of any one of the following events:

- the date the Contract terminates;
- the date Benefits under the Contract are amended if the services in the Pre-Treatment Estimate are part of the amendment;
- the date your coverage ends; or
- the date the Provider's agreement with Delta Dental ends.

A Pre-Treatment Estimate does not guarantee payment. It is an estimate of the amount we will pay if you are enrolled and meet all the requirements of the program at the time the treatment you have planned is completed and may not take into account any Deductibles, so please remember to figure in your Deductible if necessary.

### **Coordination of Benefits**

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

- How do we determine which plan is the "primary" program?
  - (1) The plan covering you as an employee is primary over a plan covering you as a dependent.
  - (2) The plan covering you as an employee is primary over a plan which covers the insured person as a dependent; except that: if the insured person is also a Medicare beneficiary, and as a result of the rule established by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations, Medicare is:
    - a) secondary to the plan covering the insured person as a dependent and

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

## SELECTING YOUR PROVIDER

### *Free Choice of Provider*

You may see any Provider for your covered treatment whether the Provider is a PPO Provider, Premier Provider or a Non-Delta Dental Provider. This plan is a PPO plan and the greatest benefits – including out-of-pocket savings – occur when you choose a PPO Provider. To take full advantage of your Benefits, we highly recommend you verify a Provider's participation status within a Delta Dental network with your dental office before each appointment. Review this section for an explanation of Delta Dental payment procedures to understand the method of payments applicable to your Provider selection and how that may impact your out-of-pocket costs.

### *Locating a PPO Provider*

You may access information through our website at [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com). You may also call our Customer Service Center and one of our representatives will assist you. We can provide you with information regarding a Provider's network participation, specialty and office location.

### *Choosing a PPO Provider*

A PPO Provider potentially allows the greatest reduction in Enrollees' out-of-pocket expenses since this select group of Providers will provide dental Benefits at a charge that has been contractually agreed upon. Payment for covered services performed by a PPO Provider is based on the Maximum Contract Allowance.

### *Choosing a Premier Provider*

A Premier Provider is a Delta Dental Provider; however, the Premier Provider has not agreed to the features of the PPO plan. The amount charged may be above that accepted by PPO Providers, and Enrollees will be responsible for balance billed amounts. Payment for covered services performed by a Premier Provider is based on the Maximum Contract Allowance, and the Enrollee may be balance billed up to the Premier Provider's Contracted Fee.

### *Choosing a Non-Delta Dental Provider*

If a Provider is a Non-Delta Dental Provider, the amount charged to Enrollees may be above that accepted by PPO or Premier Providers, and Enrollees will be responsible for balance billed amounts. Payment for covered services performed by a Non-Delta Dental Provider is based on the Maximum Contract Allowance, and the Enrollee may be balance billed up to the Provider's Submitted Fee.

### *Additional Obligations of PPO and Premier Providers*

- The PPO Provider or Premier Provider must accept assignment of Benefits, meaning these Providers will be paid directly by Delta Dental after satisfaction of the Deductible and Enrollee Coinsurance. The Enrollee does not have to pay all the dental charges while at the dental office and then submit the claim for reimbursement.
- The PPO Provider or Premier Provider will complete the dental Claim Form and submit it to Delta Dental for reimbursement.
- The PPO Provider will accept contracted fees as payment in full for covered services and will not balance bill if there is a difference between Submitted Fees and Delta Dental PPO Contracted Fees.

## How to Submit a Claim

Claims for Benefits must be filed on a standard Claim Form that is available in most dental offices. PPO and Premier Providers will fill out and submit your claims paperwork for you. Some Non-Delta Dental Providers may also provide this service upon your request. If you receive services from a Non-Delta Dental Provider who does not provide this service, you can submit your own claim directly to us. Please refer to the section titled "Notice of Claim Form" for more information.

Your dental office should be able to assist you in filling out the Claim Form. Fill out the Claim Form completely and send it to:

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

## Payment Guidelines

We do not pay PPO or Premier Providers any incentive as an inducement to deny, reduce, limit or delay any appropriate service.

If you or your Provider files a claim for services more than 12 months after the date you received the services, payment may be denied. If the services were received from a Non-Delta Dental Provider, you are still responsible for the full cost. If the payment is denied because your PPO Provider failed to submit the claim on time, you may not be responsible for that payment. However, if you did not tell your PPO Provider that you were covered under a Delta Dental Policy at the time you received the service, you may be responsible for the cost of that service.

If you have any questions about any dental charges, processing policies and/or how your claim is paid, please contact us.

## Provider Relationships

Enrollees and Delta Dental agree to permit and encourage the professional relationship between Provider and Enrollee to be maintained without interference. Any PPO, Premier or Non-Delta Dental Provider, including any Provider or employee associated with or employed by them, who provides dental services to an Enrollee does so as an independent contractor and shall be solely responsible for dental advice and for performance of dental services, or lack thereof, to the Enrollee.

## CLAIMS APPEAL

We will notify you and your Provider if Benefits are denied for services submitted on a Claim Form, in whole or in part, stating the reason(s) for denial. You have at least 180 days after receiving a notice of denial to request an appeal or grievance by writing to us giving reasons why you believe the denial was wrong. You and your Provider may also ask Delta Dental to examine any additional information provided that may support the appeal or grievance.

Send your appeal or grievance to us at the address shown below:

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

We will send you a written acknowledgment within 5 days upon receipt of the appeal or grievance. We will make a full and fair review and may ask for more documents during this review if needed. The review will take into account all comments, documents, records or other information, regardless of whether such information was submitted or considered initially. If the review is of a denial based in whole or in part on lack of dental necessity, experimental treatment or clinical judgment in applying the terms of the Contract, we shall consult with a dentist who has appropriate training and experience. The review will be conducted for us by a person who is neither the individual who made the claim denial that is subject to the review, nor the subordinate of such individual. We will send the Enrollee a decision within 30 days after receipt of the Enrollee's appeal or grievance.

If the Enrollee believes he/she needs further review of their appeal or grievance, he/she may contact his/her state regulatory agency if applicable. If the group health plan is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Enrollee may contact the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) for further review of the claim or if the Enrollee has questions about the rights under ERISA. The Enrollee may also bring a civil action under section 502(a) of ERISA. The address of the U.S. Department of Labor is: U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20210.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Non-Discrimination

Delta Dental complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Delta Dental does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Delta Dental:

- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact Delta Dental's Customer Service Center at 800-471-0236.

If you believe that Delta Dental has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance electronically online, over the phone with a Customer Service representative, or by mail.

Delta Dental  
P.O. Box 997330  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7330  
Telephone Number: 800-471-0236  
Website Address: [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com)

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

### Clinical Examination

Before approving a claim, we will be entitled to receive, to such extent as may be lawful, from any attending or examining Provider, or from hospitals in which a Provider's care is provided, such information and records relating to attendance to or examination of, or treatment provided to, you as may be required to administer the claim, or have you be examined by a dental consultant retained by us at our expense, in or near your community or residence. We will in every case hold such information and records confidential.

### Notice of Claim Form

We will give you or your Provider, on request, a Claim Form to make claim for Benefits. To make a claim, the form should be completed and signed by the Provider who performed the services and by the patient (or the parent or guardian if the patient is a minor) and submitted to us at the address above.

If the form is not furnished by us within 15 days after requested by you or your Provider, the requirements for proof of loss set forth in the next paragraph will be deemed to have been complied with upon the submission to us, within the time established in said paragraph for filing

proofs of loss, of written proof covering the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which claim is made. You or your Provider may download a Claim Form from our website.

### **Written Notice of Claim/Proof of Loss**

We must be given written proof of loss within 12 months after the date of the loss. If it is not reasonably possible to give written proof in the time required, the claim will not be reduced or denied solely for this reason, provided proof is filed as soon as reasonably possible. In any event, proof of loss must be given no later than one year from such time (unless the claimant was legally incapacitated).

All written proof of loss must be given to us within 12 months of the termination of the Contract.

### **Time of Payment**

Claims payable under the Contract for any loss other than loss for which the Contract provides any periodic payment will be processed no later than 30 days after written proof of loss is received. We will notify you and your Provider of any additional information needed to process the claim within this 30 day period. Claims not paid within;

- 30 days from original receipt if proof of loss or;
- 21 days of receipt of additional information,

are subject to charge 1 ½ interest per month. Eligible Enrollees can sue for damages if payments are late. If the rights of reimbursement have been assigned to the service provider and Delta Dental makes payment to the insured. Delta Dental will be liable to the Dentist for payment.

### **To Whom Benefits Are Paid**

It is not required that the service be provided by a specific dentist. Payment for services provided by a PPO or Premier Provider will be made directly to the dentist. Any other payments provided by the Contract will be made to you, unless you request when filing a proof of claim that the payment be made directly to the dentist providing the services. All Benefits not paid to the Provider will be payable to you, the Primary Enrollee, or Dependent Enrollee, or to your estate, or to an alternate recipient as directed by court order, except that if the person is a minor or otherwise not competent to give a valid release, Benefits may be payable to his or her parent, guardian or other person actually supporting him or her.

### **Misstatements on Application: Effect**

In the absence of fraud or intentional misrepresentation of material fact in applying for or procuring coverage under the Contract, all statements made by you or the Contractholder will be deemed representations and not warranties. No such statement will be used in defense to a claim under the Contract, unless it is contained in a written application.

Any misrepresentation, omission, concealment of fact or incorrect statement which is material to the acceptance of risk may prevent recovery if, had the true facts been known to us, we would not in good faith have issued the contract at the same premium rate. If any misstatement would materially affect the rates, we reserve the right to adjust the premium to reflect your actual circumstances at enrollment.

### **Legal Actions**

No action at law or in equity will be brought to recover on the Contract prior to expiration of 60 days after proof of loss has been filed in accordance with requirements of the Contract, nor will an action be brought at all unless brought within six (6) years from expiration of the time within which proof of loss is required by the Contract.

**Conformity With Prevailing Laws**

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

## Attachment A Deductibles, Maximums and Contract Benefit Levels

**Contractholder:** Alabama Grocers Association

**Group Number:** 21119

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

<b>Deductibles &amp; Maximums</b>		
<b>Dental Service Category</b>	<b>Base Plan</b>	<b>Enhanced Plan</b>
<b>Annual Deductible</b>	\$50 per Enrollee each Calendar Year \$150 per family each Calendar Year	\$50 per Enrollee each Calendar Year \$150 per family each Calendar Year
Deductibles waived for	Diagnostic & Preventive Services	Diagnostic & Preventive and Orthodontic Services
<b>Annual Maximum</b>	\$750 per Enrollee per Calendar Year	\$1,500 per Enrollee per Calendar Year
	If an Enrollee switches from the Enhanced Plan to the Base Plan, the Maximum Amount payable for Benefits will not exceed applicable Maximum for the Base Plan.	If an Enrollee switches from the Base Plan to the Enhanced Plan, the Maximum Amount payable for Benefits will not exceed applicable Maximum for the Enhanced Plan
<b>Lifetime Orthodontic Maximum</b>	Not Applicable	\$1,000 per dependent child Enrollee to age 26

<b>Contract Benefit Levels</b>				
<b>Dental Service Category</b>	<b>Base Plan</b>		<b>Enhanced Plan</b>	
	<b>Delta Dental PPO<sup>SM</sup> Providers<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Delta Dental Premier and Non-Delta Dental Providers<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Delta Dental PPO Providers<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>Delta Dental Premier and Non-Delta Dental Providers<sup>†</sup></b>
Delta Dental will pay or otherwise discharge the Contract Benefit Level shown below for the following services:				
<b>Diagnostic and Preventive Services</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Basic Services</b>	80%	80%	80%	80%
<b>Major Services</b>	50%	50%	50%	50%
<b>Orthodontic Services</b>	Not Applicable		50%	50%

<sup>†</sup> Reimbursement is based on PPO Contracted Fees for PPO Providers, PPO Contracted Fees for Premier Providers and PPO Contracted Fees for Non-Delta Dental Providers.

**Waiting Periods:**

- Orthodontic Services are limited to Primary Enrollees and their Dependent Enrollees who have been enrolled in the Contract for 12 consecutive months. Waiting periods for Dependent Enrollees are determined by the Primary Enrollee's length of coverage and are calculated for a Primary Enrollee and his/her Dependent Enrollee from the Primary Enrollee's Effective Date of Coverage as reported by the Contractholder.

## Attachment B Services, Limitations and Exclusions

**Contractholder:** Alabama Grocers Association

**Group Number:** 21119      **Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

### ***Description of Dental Services***

Delta Dental will pay or otherwise discharge the Contract Benefit Level shown in Attachment A for the following services:

- **Diagnostic and Preventive Services**

- (1) Diagnostic: procedures to aid the Provider in determining required dental treatment.
- (2) Preventive: cleaning (including scaling in the presence of generalized moderate or severe gingival inflammation-full mouth, which is considered to be a Diagnostic and Preventive Benefit, and periodontal maintenance, which is considered to be a Basic Benefit for payment purposes), topical application of fluoride solutions, space maintainers.

- **Basic Services**

- (1) Oral Surgery: extractions and other surgical procedures (including pre- and post-operative care).
- (2) General Anesthesia or IV Sedation: when administered by a Provider for covered Oral Surgery or selected endodontic and periodontal surgical procedures.
- (3) Endodontics: treatment of diseases and injuries of the tooth pulp.
- (4) Periodontics: treatment of gums and bones supporting teeth.
- (5) Palliative: emergency treatment to relieve pain.
- (6) Sealants: topically applied acrylic, plastic or composite materials used to seal developmental grooves and pits in permanent molars for the purpose of preventing decay.
- (7) Restorative: amalgam and resin-based composite restorations (fillings) and prefabricated crowns for treatment of carious lesions (visible destruction of hard tooth structure resulting from the process of decay).
- (8) Denture Repairs: repair to partial or complete dentures, including rebase procedures and relining.
- (9) Specialist Consultations: opinion or advice requested by a general dentist.

- **Major Services**

- (1) Crowns and Inlays/Onlays: treatment of carious lesions (visible decay of the hard tooth structure) when teeth cannot be restored with amalgam or resin-based composites.
- (2) Prosthodontics: procedures for construction of fixed bridges, partial or complete dentures and the repair of fixed bridges.

- **Orthodontic Services** (*Applicable to Enrollees in the Enhanced Plan*)

Procedures performed by a Provider using appliances to treat malocclusion of teeth and/or jaws which significantly interferes with their function.

- **Note on additional Benefits during pregnancy**

When an Enrollee is pregnant, Delta Dental will pay for additional services to help improve the oral health of the Enrollee during the pregnancy. The additional services each Calendar Year while the Enrollee is covered under the Contract include one (1) additional oral exam and either one (1) additional routine cleaning; one (1) additional periodontal scaling and root planing per quadrant; or one (1) additional periodontal maintenance procedure. Written confirmation of the pregnancy must be provided by the Enrollee or her Provider when the claim is submitted.

### **Limitations**

- (1) Services that are more expensive than the form of treatment customarily provided under accepted dental practice standards are called "Optional Services". Optional Services also include the use of specialized techniques instead of standard procedures.

Examples of Optional Services:

- a) a composite restoration instead of an amalgam restoration on posterior teeth;
- b) a crown where a filling would restore the tooth;
- c) an inlay/onlay instead of an amalgam restoration;
- d) porcelain, resin or similar materials for crowns placed on a maxillary second or third molar, or on any mandibular molar (an allowance will be made for a porcelain fused to high noble metal crown); or
- e) an overdenture instead of denture.

If an Enrollee receives Optional Services, an alternate Benefit will be allowed, which means Delta Dental will base Benefits on the lower cost of the customary service or standard practice instead of on the higher cost of the Optional Service. The Enrollee will be responsible for the difference between the higher cost of the Optional Service and the lower cost of the customary service or standard procedure.

- (2) Exam and cleaning limitations:
  - a) Delta Dental will pay for oral examinations (except after-hours exams and exams for observation) and cleanings (including scaling in the presence of generalized moderate or severe gingival inflammation-full mouth, periodontal maintenance in the presence of inflamed gums or any combination thereof) no more than twice in a Calendar Year.
  - b) A full mouth debridement is allowed once in a lifetime when the Enrollee has no history of prophylaxis, scaling and root planing, periodontal surgery or periodontal maintenance procedures within three (3) years. When allowed a full mouth debridement counts toward the maintenance frequency in the year provided.
  - c) Full mouth debridement is not allowed when performed by the same dentist/dental office on the same day as evaluation procedures.
  - d) Note that periodontal maintenance, Procedure Codes that include periodontal maintenance and full mouth debridement are covered as a Basic Benefit and that routine cleanings (including scaling in presence of generalized moderate or severe gingival inflammation-full mouth) are covered as a Diagnostic and Preventive Benefit. See note on additional Benefits during pregnancy.
  - e) Caries risk assessments are allowed once in 36 months.
- (3) X-ray limitations:
  - a) Delta Dental will limit the total reimbursable amount to the Provider's Accepted Fee for a complete intraoral series when the fees for any combination of intraoral x-rays in a single treatment series meet or exceed the Accepted Fee for a complete intraoral series.
  - b) When a panoramic film is submitted with supplemental film(s), Delta Dental will limit the total reimbursable amount to the Provider's Accepted Fee for a complete intraoral series.
  - c) If a panoramic film is taken in conjunction with an intraoral complete series, Delta Dental considers the panoramic film to be included in the complete series.
  - d) A complete intraoral series and panoramic film are each limited to once every 60 months.
  - e) Bitewing x-rays are limited to two (2) times in a Calendar Year when provided to Enrollees under age 18 and one (1) time each Calendar Year for Enrollees age 18 and over. Bitewings of any type are disallowed within 12 months of a full mouth series unless warranted by special circumstances.
  - f) Bitewing x-rays are limited to two images for Enrollees under age 10.

- (4) Topical application of fluoride solutions is limited to Enrollees to age 19 and no more than twice in a Calendar Year.
- (5) Interim caries arresting medicament application is limited to twice per tooth per calendar year.
- (6) Space maintainer limitations:
  - a) Space maintainers are limited to the initial appliance and are a Benefit for an Enrollee to age 14. However, a distal shoe space maintainer-fixed-unilateral is limited to children eight (8) and younger. A separate/additional space maintainer can be allowed after the removal of a unilateral distal shoe.
  - b) Recementation of space maintainer is limited to once per lifetime.
  - c) The removal of a fixed space maintainer is considered to be included in the fee for the space maintainer; however, an exception is made if the removal is performed by a different Provider/Provider's office.
- (7) Pulp vitality tests are allowed once per day when definitive treatment is not performed.
- (8) Cephalometric x-rays, oral/facial photographic images and diagnostic casts are covered once per lifetime in conjunction with Orthodontic Services only when Orthodontic Services are a covered benefit. If Orthodontic Services are covered, see Limitations as age limits may apply. However, 3D x-rays are not a covered benefit.
- (9) Sealants are limited as follows:
  - a) to permanent first molars through age eight (8) and to permanent second molars through age 15 if they are without caries (decay) or restorations on the occlusal surface.
  - b) repair or replacement of a Sealant on any tooth within 24 months of its application is included in the fee for the original placement.
- (10) Specialist Consultations, screenings of patients, and assessments of patients are limited to once per lifetime per Provider and count toward the oral exam frequency.
- (11) Delta Dental will not cover replacement of an amalgam or resin-based composite restorations (fillings) or prefabricated crowns within 24 months of treatment if the service is provided by the same Provider/Provider office. Replacement restorations within 24 months are included in the fee for the original restoration.
- (12) Protective restorations (sedative fillings) are allowed once per tooth per lifetime when definitive treatment is not performed on the same date of service.
- (13) Prefabricated crowns are allowed on baby (deciduous) teeth and permanent teeth up to age 16. Replacement restorations within 24 months are included in the fee for the original restoration.
- (14) Therapeutic pulpotomy is limited to once per lifetime for baby (deciduous) teeth only and is considered palliative treatment for permanent teeth.
- (15) Pulpal therapy (resorbable filling) is limited to once in a lifetime. Retreatment of root canal therapy by the same Provider/Provider office within 24 months is considered part of the original procedure.
- (16) Apexification is only benefited on permanent teeth with incomplete root canal development or for the repair of a perforation. Apexification visits have a lifetime limit per tooth of one (1) initial visit, four (4) interim visits and one (1) final visit to age 19.
- (17) Retreatment of apical surgery by the same Provider/Provider office within 24 months is considered part of the original procedure.
- (18) Palliative treatment is covered per visit, not per tooth, and the fee includes all treatment provided other than required x-rays or select Diagnostic procedures.

- (19) Periodontal limitations:
- a) Benefits for periodontal scaling and root planing in the same quadrant are limited to once in every 24-month period. See note on additional Benefits during pregnancy. No more than two quadrants of scaling and root planing will be covered on the same date of service.
  - b) Periodontal surgery in the same quadrant is limited to once in every 36-month period and includes any surgical re-entry or scaling and root planing performed within 36-months by the same Provider/Provider office.
  - c) Periodontal services, including bone replacement grafts, guided tissue regeneration, graft procedures and biological materials to aid in soft and osseous tissue regeneration are only covered for the treatment of natural teeth and are not covered when submitted in conjunction with extractions, periradicular surgery, ridge augmentation or implants. Guided tissue regenerations and/or bone grafts are not benefited in conjunction with soft tissue grafts in the same surgical area.
  - d) Periodontal surgery is subject to a 30 day wait following periodontal scaling and root planing in the same quadrant.
  - e) Cleanings (regular and periodontal) and full mouth debridement are subject to a 30 day wait following periodontal scaling and root planing if performed by the same Provider office.
  - f) When implant procedures are a covered benefit, scaling and debridement in the presence of inflammation or mucositis of a single implant, including cleaning of the implant surfaces, without flap entry and closure is covered as a Basic Service and are limited to once in a 24-month period.
- (20) Oral Surgery services are covered once in a lifetime except removal of cysts and lesions and incision and drainage procedures, which are covered once in the same day.
- (21) The following Oral Surgery procedure is limited to age 19 (or orthodontic limiting age): transseptal fiberotomy/supra crestal fiberotomy, by report.
- (22) The following Oral Surgery procedures are limited to age 19 (or orthodontic limiting age) provided Orthodontic Services are covered: surgical access of an unerupted tooth, placement of device to facilitate eruption of impacted tooth, and surgical repositioning of teeth.
- (23) Frenulectomy and frenuloplasty are only considered in cases of ankyloglossia (tongue-tie) interfering with feeding or speech as diagnosed and documented by a physician, by report.
- (24) Crowns and Inlays/Onlays are limited to Enrollees age 12 and older and are covered not more often than once in any 60 month period except when Delta Dental determines the existing Crown or Inlay/Onlay is not satisfactory and cannot be made satisfactory because the tooth involved has experienced extensive loss or changes to tooth structure or supporting tissues.
- (25) Core buildup, including any pins, are covered not more than once in any 60 month period.
- (26) Post and core services are covered not more than once in any 60 month period.
- (27) Crown repairs are covered not more than twice in any 60 month period. Crowns, inlays/onlays and fixed bridges include repairs for 24 months following installation.
- (28) Denture Repairs are covered not more than once in any six (6) month period except for fixed Denture Repairs which are covered not more than twice in any 60 month period.
- (29) Prosthodontic appliances that were provided under any Delta Dental program will be replaced only after 60 months have passed, except when Delta Dental determines that there is such extensive loss of remaining teeth or change in supporting tissue that the existing fixed bridge or denture cannot be made satisfactory. Fixed prosthodontic appliances are limited to Enrollees age 16 and older. Replacement of a prosthodontic appliance not provided under a Delta Dental program will be made if Delta Dental determines it is unsatisfactory and cannot be made satisfactory.

- (30) When a posterior fixed bridge and a removable partial denture are placed in the same arch in the same treatment episode, only the partial denture will be a Benefit.
- (31) Recementation of Crowns, Inlays/Onlays or bridges is included in the fee for the Crown, Inlay/Onlay or bridge when performed by the same Provider/Provider office within six (6) months of the initial placement. After six (6) months, payment will be limited to one (1) recementation in a lifetime by the same Provider/Provider office.
- (32) Delta Dental limits payment for dentures to a standard partial or complete denture (Enrollee Coinsurances apply). A standard denture means a removable appliance to replace missing natural, permanent teeth that is made from acceptable materials by conventional means and includes routine post delivery care including any adjustments and relines for the first six (6) months after placement.
  - a) Denture rebase is limited to one (1) per arch in a 24-month period and includes any relining and adjustments for six (6) months following placement.
  - b) Dentures, removable partial dentures and relines include adjustments for six (6) months following installation. After the initial six (6) months of an adjustment or reline, adjustments are limited to two (2) per arch in a Calendar Year and relining is limited to one (1) per arch in a six (6) month period.
  - c) Tissue conditioning is limited to two (2) per arch in a 12-month period. However, tissue conditioning is not allowed as a separate Benefit when performed on the same day as a denture, reline or rebase service.
  - d) Recementation of fixed partial dentures is limited to once in a lifetime.
- (33) Delta Dental will not pay for implants (artificial teeth implanted into or on bone or gums), their removal or other associated procedures, but Delta Dental will credit the cost of a pontic or standard complete or partial denture toward the cost of the implant associated appliance, i.e., the implant supported crown or denture. The implant appliance is not covered.
- (34) Limitations on Orthodontic Services: *(Applicable to Enrollees in the Enhanced Plan)*
  - a) The maximum amount payable for each Enrollee is shown in Attachment A.
  - b) Benefits for Orthodontic Services will be provided in periodic payments based on the Enrollee's continuing eligibility.
  - c) Benefits are not paid to repair or replace any orthodontic appliance received under this plan.
  - d) Benefits are not paid for orthodontic retreatment procedures.
  - e) Benefits for Orthodontic Services are limited to dependent child Enrollees under the age of 26.
  - f) Orthodontic treatment must be provided by a licensed dentist. Self-administered orthodontics are not covered.
  - g) The removal of fixed orthodontic appliances for reasons other than completion of treatment is not a covered benefit.

**Exclusions**

**Delta Dental does not pay Benefits for:**

- (1) treatment of injuries or illness covered by workers' compensation or employers' liability laws; services received without cost from any federal, state or local agency, unless this exclusion is prohibited by law.
- (2) cosmetic surgery or procedures for purely cosmetic reasons.
- (3) maxillofacial prosthetics.
- (4) provisional and/or temporary restorations (except an interim removable partial denture to replace extracted anterior permanent teeth during the healing period for children 16 years of age or under). Provisional and/or temporary restorations are not separately payable procedures and are included in the fee for completed service.
- (5) services for congenital (hereditary) or developmental (following birth) malformations, including but not limited to cleft palate, upper and lower jaw malformations, enamel hypoplasia (lack of development), fluorosis (a type of discoloration of the teeth) and anodontia (congenitally missing teeth), except those services provided to newborn children for medically diagnosed congenital defects or birth abnormalities.

- (6) treatment to stabilize teeth, treatment to restore tooth structure lost from wear, erosion, or abrasion or treatment to rebuild or maintain chewing surfaces due to teeth out of alignment or occlusion. Examples include but are not limited to: equilibration, periodontal splinting, complete occlusal adjustments or Night Guards/Occlusal guards and abfraction.
- (7) any Single Procedure provided prior to the date the Enrollee became eligible for services under this plan.
- (8) prescribed drugs, medication, pain killers, antimicrobial agents, or experimental/investigational procedures.
- (9) charges for anesthesia, other than General Anesthesia and IV Sedation administered by a Provider in connection with covered Oral Surgery or selected Endodontic and Periodontal surgical procedures. Local anesthesia and regional/or trigeminal bloc anesthesia are not separately payable procedures.
- (10) extraoral grafts (grafting of tissues from outside the mouth to oral tissues).
- (11) laboratory processed crowns for Enrollees under age 12.
- (12) fixed bridges and removable partials for Enrollees under age 16.
- (13) interim implants and endodontic endosseous implant.
- (14) indirectly fabricated resin-based Inlays/Onlays.
- (15) charges by any hospital or other surgical or treatment facility and any additional fees charged by the Provider for treatment in any such facility.
- (16) treatment by someone other than a Provider or a person who by law may work under a Provider's direct supervision.
- (17) charges incurred for oral hygiene instruction, a plaque control program, preventive control programs including home care times, dietary instruction, x-ray duplications, cancer screening or tobacco counseling.
- (18) dental practice administrative services including, but not limited to, preparation of claims, any non-treatment phase of dentistry such as provision of an antiseptic environment, sterilization of equipment or infection control, or any ancillary materials used during the routine course of providing treatment such as cotton swabs, gauze, bibs, masks or relaxation techniques such as music.
- (19) procedures having a questionable prognosis based on a dental consultant's professional review of the submitted documentation.
- (20) any tax imposed (or incurred) by a government, state or other entity, in connection with any fees charged for Benefits provided under the Contract, will be the responsibility of the Enrollee and not a covered Benefit.
- (21) Deductibles, amounts over plan maximums and/or any service not covered under the dental plan.
- (22) services covered under the dental plan but exceed Benefit limitations or are not in accordance with processing policies in effect at the time the claim is processed.
- (23) services for Orthodontic treatment (treatment of malocclusion of teeth and/or jaws) except as provided under the Orthodontic Services section, if applicable.
- (24) services for any disturbance of the Temporomandibular (jaw) Joints (TMJ) or associated musculature, nerves and other tissues) except as provided under the TMJ Benefit section, if applicable.

- (25) missed and/or cancelled appointments.
- (26) actions taken to schedule and assure compliance with patient appointments are inclusive with office operations and are not a separately payable service.
- (27) the fees for care coordination are considered inclusive in overall patient management and are not a separately payable service.
- (28) dental case management motivational interviewing and patient education to improve oral health literacy.
- (29) non-ionizing diagnostic procedure capable of quantifying, monitoring and recording changes in structure of enamel, dentin, and cementum.
- (30) extra-oral - 2D projection radiographic image and extra-oral posterior dental radiographic image.
- (31) diabetes testing.
- (32) corticotomy (specialized oral surgery procedure associated with orthodontics).
- (33) teledentistry fees.

## **HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices**

### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION**

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

This notice is required by law to inform you of how Delta Dental and its affiliates ("Delta Dental") protect the confidentiality of your health care information in our possession. Protected Health Information (PHI) is defined as individually identifiable information regarding a patient's health care history, mental or physical condition or treatment. Some examples of PHI include your name, address, telephone and/or fax number, electronic mail address, social security number or other identification number, date of birth, date of treatment, treatment records, x-rays, enrollment and claims records. Delta Dental receives, uses and discloses your PHI to administer your benefit plan or as permitted or required by law. Any other disclosure of your PHI without your authorization is prohibited.

We follow the privacy practices described in this notice and federal and state privacy requirements that apply to our administration of your benefits. Delta Dental reserves the right to change our privacy practice effective for all PHI maintained. We will update this notice if there are material changes and redistribute it to you within 60 days of the change to our practices. We will also promptly post a revised notice on our website. A copy may be requested anytime by contacting the address or phone number at the end of this notice. You should receive a copy of this notice at the time of enrollment in a Delta Dental program and will be informed on how to obtain a copy at least every three years.

### **PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES OF YOUR PHI**

#### **Uses and disclosures of your PHI for treatment, payment or health care operations**

Your explicit authorization is not required to disclose information about yourself for purposes of health care treatment, payment of claims, billing of premiums, and other health care operations. If your benefit plan is sponsored by your employer or another party, we may provide PHI to your employer or plan sponsor to administer your benefits. As permitted by law, we may disclose PHI to third-party affiliates that perform services for Delta Dental to administer your benefits, and who have signed a contract agreeing to protect the confidentiality of your PHI, and have implemented privacy policies and procedures that comply with applicable federal and state law.

Some examples of disclosure and use for treatment, payment or operations include: processing your claims, collecting enrollment information and premiums, reviewing the quality of health

care you receive, providing customer service, resolving your grievances, and sharing payment information with other insurers. Some other examples are:

- Uses and/or disclosures of PHI in facilitating treatment. *For example, Delta Dental may use or disclose your PHI to determine eligibility for services requested by your provider.*
- Uses and/or disclosures of PHI for payment. *For example, Delta Dental may use and disclose your PHI to bill you or your plan sponsor.*
- Uses and/or disclosures of PHI for health care operations. *For example, Delta Dental may use and disclose your PHI to review the quality of care provided by our network of providers.*

### **Other permitted uses and disclosures without an authorization**

We are permitted to disclose your PHI upon your request, or to your authorized personal representative (with certain exceptions), when required by the U. S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the law, and when otherwise required by law. Delta Dental may disclose your PHI without your prior authorization in response to the following:

- Court order;
- Order of a board, commission, or administrative agency for purposes of adjudication pursuant to its lawful authority;
- Subpoena in a civil action;
- Investigative subpoena of a government board, commission, or agency;
- Subpoena in an arbitration;
- Law enforcement search warrant; or
- Coroner's request during investigations.

Some other examples include: to notify or assist in notifying a family member, another person, or a personal representative of your condition; to assist in disaster relief efforts; to report victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence to appropriate authorities; for organ donation purposes; to avert a serious threat to health or safety; for specialized government functions such as military and veterans activities; for workers' compensation purposes; and, with certain restrictions, we are permitted to use and/or disclose your PHI for underwriting, provided it does not contain genetic information. Information can also be de-identified or summarized so it cannot be traced to you and, in selected instances, for research purposes with the proper oversight.

### **Disclosures Delta Dental makes with your authorization**

Delta Dental will not use or disclose your PHI without your prior written authorization unless permitted by law. If you grant an authorization, you can later revoke that authorization, in writing, to stop the future use and disclosure. The authorization will be obtained from you by Delta Dental or by a person requesting your PHI from Delta Dental.

## **YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING PHI**

### **You have the right to request an inspection of and obtain a copy of your PHI.**

You may access your PHI by contacting Delta Dental at the address at the bottom of this notice. You must include (1) your name, address, telephone number and identification number, and (2) the PHI you are requesting. Delta Dental may charge a reasonable fee for providing you copies of your PHI. Delta Dental will only maintain that PHI that we obtain or utilize in providing your health care benefits. Most PHI, such as treatment records or x-rays, is returned by Delta Dental to the dentist after we have completed our review of that information. You may need to contact your health care provider to obtain PHI that Delta Dental does not possess.

You may not inspect or copy PHI compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, or PHI that is otherwise not subject to disclosure under federal or state law. In some circumstances, you may have a right to have this decision reviewed. Please contact Delta Dental as noted below if you have questions about access to your PHI.

### **You have the right to request a restriction of your PHI.**

You have the right to ask that we limit how we use and disclose your PHI, however, you may not restrict our legal or permitted uses and disclosures of PHI. While we will consider your request, we are not legally required to accept those requests that we cannot reasonably implement or comply with during an emergency. If we accept your request, we will put our understanding in writing.

### **You have the right to correct or update your PHI.**

You may request to make an amendment of PHI we maintain about you. In certain cases, we may deny your request for an amendment. If we deny your request for amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal. If your PHI was sent to us by another, we may refer you to that person to amend your PHI. For example, we may refer you to your dentist to amend your treatment chart or to your employer, if applicable, to amend your enrollment information. Please contact the privacy office as noted below if you have questions about amending your PHI.

### **You have rights related to the use and disclosure of your PHI for marketing.**

Delta Dental agrees to obtain your authorization for the use or disclosure of PHI for marketing when required by law. You have the opportunity to opt-out of marketing that is permitted by law without an authorization. Delta Dental does not use your PHI for fundraising purposes.

### **You have the right to request or receive confidential communications from us by alternative means or at a different address.**

Alternate or confidential communication is available if disclosure of your PHI to the address on file could endanger you. You may be required to provide us with a statement of possible danger,

as well as specify a different address or another method of contact. Please make this request in writing to the address noted at the end of this notice.

**You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures we have made, if any, of your PHI.**

You have a right to an accounting of disclosures with some restrictions. This right does not apply to disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations or for information we disclosed after we received a valid authorization from you. Additionally, we do not need to account for disclosures made to you, to family members or friends involved in your care, or for notification purposes. We do not need to account for disclosures made for national security reasons, certain law enforcement purposes or disclosures made as part of a limited data set. Please contact us at the number at the end of this notice if you would like to receive an accounting of disclosures or if you have questions about this right.

**You have the right to get this notice by email.**

A copy of this notice is posted on the Delta Dental website. You may also request an email copy or paper copy of this notice by calling our Customer Service number listed at the bottom of this notice.

**You have the right to be notified following a breach of unsecured protected health information.**

Delta Dental will notify you in writing, at the address on file, if we discover we compromised the privacy of your PHI.

**COMPLAINTS**

You may file a complaint with Delta Dental and/or with the U. S. Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe Delta Dental has violated your privacy rights. Complaints to Delta Dental may be filed by notifying the contact below. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

**CONTACTS**

You may contact Delta Dental at 866-530-9675, or you may write to the address listed below for further information about the complaint process or any of the information contained in this notice.

Delta Dental  
P.O. Box 997330  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7330

This notice is effective on and after January 1, 2017.

*Note: Delta Dental's privacy practices reflect applicable federal law as well as known state law and regulations. If applicable state law is more protective of information than the federal privacy laws, Delta Dental protects information in accordance with the state law.*

**Last Significant Changes to this notice:**

- Clarified that Delta Dental does not use your PHI for fundraising purposes. Effective January 1, 2016
- Clarified that Delta Dental's privacy policy reflect federal and state requirements. – effective January 1, 2015
- Updated contact information (mailing address and phone number) – effective July 1, 2013
- Updated Delta Dental's duty to notify affected individuals if a breach of their unsecured PHI occurs – effective July 1, 2013
- Clarified that Delta Dental does not and will not sell your information without your express written authorization – effective July 1, 2013
- Clarified several instances where the law requires individual authorization to use and disclose information (e.g., fundraising and marketing as noted above) – effective July 1, 2013

**DELTA DENTAL AND ITS AFFILIATES**

Delta Dental of California offers and administers fee-for-service dental programs for groups headquartered in the state of California.

Delta Dental of New York offers and administers fee-for-service programs in New York.

Delta Dental of Pennsylvania and its affiliates offer and administer fee for-service dental programs in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Delta Dental of Pennsylvania's affiliates are Delta Dental of Delaware; Delta Dental of the District of Columbia and Delta Dental of West Virginia.

Delta Dental Insurance Company offers and administers fee-for-service dental programs to groups headquartered or located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Texas and Utah and vision programs to groups headquartered in West Virginia.

DeltaCare USA is underwritten in these states by these entities: AL — Alpha Dental of Alabama, Inc.; AZ — Alpha Dental of Arizona, Inc.; CA — Delta Dental of California; AR, CO, IA, ME, MI, NC, NH, OK, OR, RI, SC, SD, VT, WA, WI, WY — Dentegra Insurance Company; AK, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, KS, LA, MS, MT, TN and WV — Delta Dental Insurance Company; HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, MD, MO, NJ, OH, TX — Alpha Dental Programs, Inc.; NV — Alpha Dental of Nevada, Inc.; UT — Alpha Dental of Utah, Inc.; NM — Alpha Dental of New Mexico, Inc.; NY — Delta Dental of New York, Inc.; PA — Delta Dental of Pennsylvania; VA — Delta Dental of Virginia. Delta Dental Insurance Company acts as the DeltaCare USA administrator in all these states. These companies are financially responsible for their own products.

Dentegra Insurance Company.

Can you read this document? If not, we can have somebody help you read it. You may also be able to get this document written in your language. For free help, please call 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711).

¿Puede leer este documento? Si no, podemos hacer que alguien lo lea por usted. También puede obtener este documento escrito en su idioma. Para obtener ayuda gratuita, llame al 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Spanish)

您能自行閱讀本文件嗎？如果不能，我們可請人幫助您閱讀。您還可以請人以您的語言撰寫本文件。如需免費幫助，請致電 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711)。 (Chinese)

Bạn có đọc được tài liệu này không? Nếu không, chúng tôi sẽ cử một ai đó giúp bạn đọc. Bạn cũng có thể nhận được tài liệu này viết bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn. Để nhận được trợ giúp miễn phí, vui lòng gọi 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Vietnamese)

이 문서를 읽으실 수 있습니까? 그렇지 않다면, 다른 사람이 대신 읽어드리도록 도와드릴 수 있습니다. 또한 이 문서를 귀하의 모국어로 번역해드릴 수 있습니다. 무료 지원을 요청하시려면, 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711)번으로 연락하십시오. (Korean)

Mababasa mo ba ang dokumentong ito? Kung hindi, mayroong makatutulong sa iyo na basahin ito. Maaring makuha mo rin ang dokumentong ito nang nakasulat sa iyong wika. Para sa libreng tulong, pakitawagan ang 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Tagalog)

Вы можете прочитать этот документ? Если нет, то вы можете попросить кого-нибудь в нашей компании помочь вам прочитать этот документ. Вы также можете получить этот документ на своем языке. Для получения бесплатной помощи, просьба звонить по номеру 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Russian)

هل تستطيع قراءة هذا المستند؟ إذا كنت لا تستطيع، يمكننا أن نوفر لك من يساعدك في قراءتها. ربما يمكنك أيضًا الحصول على هذا المستند مكتوبًا بلغتك. للمساعدة المجانية اتصل بـ 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Arabic)

Èske w ka li dokiman sa a? Si w pa kapab, nou ka fè yon moun ede w li l. Ou ka gen posiblite pou jwenn dokiman sa a tou ki ekri nan lang ou. Pou jwenn èd gratis, tanpri rele 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Haitian Creole)

Pouvez-vous lire ce document ? Si ce n'est pas le cas, nous pouvons faire en sorte que quelqu'un vous aide à le lire. Vous pouvez également obtenir ce document écrit dans votre langue. Pour obtenir de l'assistance gratuitement, veuillez appeler le 1-800-521-2651 (TTY : 711). (French)

Możesz przeczytać ten dokument? Jeśli nie, możemy Ci w tym pomóc. Możesz także otrzymać ten dokument w swoim języku ojczystym. Po bezpłatną pomoc zadzwoń pod numer 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Polish)

Você consegue ler este documento? Se não, podemos pedir para alguém ajudá-lo a ler. Você também pode receber este documento escrito em seu idioma. Para obter ajuda gratuita, ligue 1-800-521-2651 (TTS: 711). (Portuguese)

Non riesci a leggere questo documento? In tal caso, possiamo chiedere a qualcuno di aiutarti a farlo. Potresti anche essere in grado di ricevere questo documento scritto nella tua lingua. Per assistenza gratuita, chiama il numero 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Italian)

この文書をお読みになれますか？お読みになれない場合には、読むためのお手伝いをさせていただきます。この文書をご希望の言語に訳したものをお送りできる場合もあります。無料のサポートについては、1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711) までご連絡ください。 (Japanese)

Können Sie dieses Dokument lesen? Falls nicht, können wir Ihnen einen Mitarbeiter zur Verfügung stellen, der Sie dabei unterstützen wird. Möglicherweise können Sie dieses Dokument auch in Ihrer Sprache erhalten. Rufen Sie für kostenlose Hilfe bitte folgende Nummer an: 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (German)

آیا می توانید این متن را بخوانید؟ در صورتی که نمی توانید، ما قادریم از شخصی بخوایا تا در خواندن این متن به شما کمک کند. همچنین ممکن است بتوانید این متن را به زبان خود دریافت کنید. برای کمک رایگان با این شماره تماس بگیرید: 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Persian Farsi)

קענט איר לייענען דעם דאָזיקן דאָקומענט? אויב ניט, עמעצער דו קען אייך העלפן לייענען. איר קענט מעגליך אויך באקומען דעם דאָזיקן דאָקומענט אין אייער שפראך. פאר אומזיסטע הילף, ביטע קלינגט: 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Yiddish)

Díísh yíníłta'go bíníghah? Doo bíníghahgóó éí nich'í' yídooltahígíí nihee hóló. Díí naaltsos t'áá Diné bizaad k'ehjí ályaaago áldó' nich'í' ádoolníłgo bííghah. T'áá jíík'e shíká i' doolwoł nínizingo koji' béesh holdíílnih 1-800-521-2651 (TTY: 711). (Navajo)

## Non-Discrimination Disclosure

### Discrimination is Against the Law

Delta Dental complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, including sex stereotypes and gender identity. Delta Dental does not exclude people or treat them differently because of their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Coverage for medically necessary health services are available on the same terms for all individuals, regardless of sex assigned at birth, gender identity, or recorded gender. Delta Dental will not deny or limit coverage to any health service based on the fact that an individual's sex assigned at birth, gender identity, or recorded gender is different from the one to which such health service is ordinarily available. Delta Dental will not deny or limit coverage for a specific health service related to gender transition if such denial or limitation results in discriminating against a transgender individual.

If you believe that Delta Dental has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance electronically online, over the phone with a customer service representative, or by mail.

Delta Dental  
P.O. Box 997330  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7330  
Telephone Number 866-530-9675  
Website Address: [deltadentalins.com](http://deltadentalins.com)

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington DC 20201, 1-800-868-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

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Delta Dental provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- qualified sign language interpreters
- written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Delta Dental also provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- qualified interpreters
- information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact Delta Dental customer service 866-530-9675.