

# BENEFIT NEWS

WVCH: Diabetic Dental Benefits

November 1, 2018

## WVCH members have comprehensive dental benefits. Dental care for diabetic patients is especially important.

Patients with chronic medical conditions who receive dental care are more likely to experience improved control of their chronic condition than are those who don't receive dental care. There is a relationship between Diabetes and Periodontal Disease – patients with one condition have an increased chance of having the other condition. Patients with Diabetes and Periodontal Disease who have periodontal therapy are more likely to see improved blood sugar control and reduction in severity of their gum disease. If your patient has Diabetes, you can help them manage their Diabetes by recommending that they see a dentist!



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*"I always encourage my diabetic patients to seek dental care as part of their overall preventive care."*

- WVCH Provider

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### Diabetic Dental Care:

People with diabetes are at risk for mouth problems, especially gum disease. Gum disease can damage the gum and bone that hold teeth in place and may lead to painful chewing problems and even tooth loss. Gum disease also makes it hard to control glucose. Glucose is in saliva. When diabetes is not controlled, there's extra glucose in saliva. The extra glucose helps bacteria grow. This can lead to tooth decay and cavities.

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When encouraging your diabetic patients to seek dental services know they have access to the following benefits under their dental plan. You can find the members dental plan on their WVCH ID Card, the eligibility screen in CIM, or by calling WVCH Customer Service.

**Covered dental services for all patients include the following:**

Preventive services (cleanings, fluoride treatments)

Routine services (fillings, x-rays)

Dental examinations

Extractions

Dentures

Stainless steel crowns for back teeth

Emergency care

Specialist care and referrals

**Members with diabetes may be authorized for additional benefits:**

More frequent cleanings, periodontal treatments, and exams

Resource Information provided by:  
Our dental plan partners Advantage Dental, Capitol Dental, and ODS

## Questions:

Contact WVCH Customer Service 503-584-2150.

OR if the patient knows what dental plan they are on you can contact them directly.

Advantage Dental Member Services—866-268-9631

Capitol Dental Member Services—800-525-6800

ODS Member Services—800-342-0526