

BENEFIT PLAN

**Prepared Exclusively For
Conroe Independent School District**

Passive PPO Dental

**What Your Plan
Covers and How
Benefits are Paid**



**Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)
Dental Plan**

Booklet

Prepared exclusively for

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Third Party Administrative Services provided by Aetna Life Insurance Company

Welcome

Thank you for choosing **Aetna**.

This is your booklet. It is one of two documents that together describe the benefits covered by your Employer's self-funded plan for in-network and out-of-network dental coverage.

This booklet will tell you about your **covered benefits** – what they are and how you get them. It replaces all booklets describing similar coverage that we sent to you before. The second document is the schedule of benefits. It tells you how we share expenses for **eligible dental services** and tells you about limits – like when your plan covers only a certain number of visits.

Each of these documents may have amendments attached to them. They change or add to the documents they're part of.

Where to next? Try the *Let's get started!* section. *Let's get started!* gives you a summary of how your plan works. The more you understand, the more you can get out of your plan.

Welcome to your Employer's self-funded plan.

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Schedule of benefits

Issued with your booklet

Let's get started!

Here are some basics. First things first – some notes on how we use words. Then we explain how your plan works so you can get the most out of your coverage. But for all the details – and this is very important – you need to read this entire booklet and the schedule of benefits. And if you need help or more information, we tell you how to reach us.

Some notes on how we use words

- When we say “you” and “your”, we mean both you and any covered dependents.
- When we say “us”, “we”, and “our”, we mean **Aetna** when we are describing administrative services provided by **Aetna** as Third Party Administrator.
- Some words appear in **bold** type and we define them in the *Glossary* section.

Sometimes we use technical dental language that is familiar to **dental providers**.

What your plan does – providing covered benefits

Your plan provides in-network and out-of-network **covered benefits**. These are **eligible dental services** for which your plan has the obligation to pay.

How your plan works – starting and stopping coverage

Your coverage under the plan has a start and an end. You start coverage after the eligibility and enrollment process is completed. To learn more see the *Who the plan covers* section.

Your coverage typically ends when you leave your job. Family members can lose coverage for many reasons, such as growing up and leaving home. To learn more see the *When coverage ends* section.

Ending coverage under the plan doesn't necessarily mean you lose coverage with us. See the *Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends* section.

How your plan works while you are covered in-network

Your in-network coverage helps you:

- Get and pay for a lot of – but not all – dental care services. These are called **eligible dental services**
- Pay less cost share when you use a **in-network provider**

Important note:

See the schedule of benefits for any **deductibles, payment percentage**, and maximum age or visit limits that may apply.

Eligible dental services

Eligible dental services meet these requirements:

- They are listed in the *Eligible dental services* section in the schedule of benefits.
- They are not carved out in the *What your plan doesn't cover – some eligible dental service exclusions* section. (We refer to this section as the “Exclusions” section.)
- They are not beyond any limits in the schedule of benefits.

Aetna's network of dental providers

Aetna's network of **dental providers** is there to give you the care you need. You can find **in-network providers** and see important information about them most easily on our online **provider directory**. Just log into your secure member website at www.aetna.com.

You can choose any **dental provider** who is in the dental network.

Your plan often will pay a bigger share for **eligible dental services** that you get through **in-network providers**, so choose **in-network providers** as soon as you can.

For more information about the **provider directory** and the role of your **dental provider**, see the *Who provides the care* section.

Paying for eligible dental services– the general requirements

There are general requirements for the plan to pay any part of the expense for an **eligible dental service**. They are:

- The **eligible dental service** is **medically necessary**.
- You get the **eligible dental services** from **in-network** or **out-of-network providers**.

You will find details on **medical necessity** requirements in the *Medical necessity* section.

Paying for eligible dental services– sharing the expense

Generally your plan and you will share the expense of your **eligible dental services** when you meet the general requirements for paying.

But sometimes your plan will pay the entire expense; and sometimes you will. For more information see the *What the plan pays and what you pay* section, and see the schedule of benefits.

How your plan works while you are covered out-of-network

The section above told you how your plan works while you are covered in-network. You also have coverage when you want to get your care from **providers** who are not part of the **Aetna** network. It's called out-of-network coverage.

Your out-of-network coverage:

- Means you can get care from **dental providers** who are not part of the **Aetna** network.
- Means you may have to pay for services at the time that they are provided. You may be required to pay the full charges and submit a claim for reimbursement to us. You are responsible for completing and submitting claim forms for reimbursement of **eligible dental services** that you paid directly to a **dental provider**.
- Means you will pay a higher cost share when you use an **out-of-network provider**.

You will find details on:

- **Out-of-network providers** and any exclusions in the *Who provides the care* section. Cost sharing in the *What the plan pays and what you pay* section, and your schedule of benefits.
- Claim information in the *When you disagree - claim decisions and appeals procedures* section.

How to contact us for help

We are here to answer your questions. You can contact us by:

- Logging onto your secure member website at www.aetna.com
- Registering for our secure Internet access to reliable dental information, tools and resources

Online tools will make it easier for you to make informed decisions about your dental care, view claims, research care and treatment options, and access information.

You can also contact us by:

- Calling **Aetna** Member Services at 1-877-238-6200
- Writing us at **Aetna Life Insurance Company**, 151 Farmington Ave, Hartford, CT 06156

Your member ID card

You don't need to show an ID card. When visiting a **dentist**, just provide your name, date of birth and either your member ID or social security number. The dental office can use that information to verify your eligibility and benefits. Your member ID is located on the front of your digital ID card which you can view or print by going to the secure member website at www.aetna.com. If you don't have internet access, call us at 1-877-238-6200. You can also access your ID card when you're on the go. To learn more, visit us at www.aetna.com/mobile.

Who the plan covers

You will find information in this section about:

- Who is eligible
- When you can join the plan
- Who can be on your plan (who can be your dependent)
- Adding new dependents
- Special times you and your dependents can join the plan

Who is eligible

Your Employer decides and tells us who is eligible for dental care coverage.

When you can join the plan

As an employee you can enroll yourself and your dependents:

- At any time
- Once each **Plan Year** during the annual enrollment period
- At other special times during the year (see the *Special times you and your dependents can join the plan* section below)

If you do not enroll yourself and your dependents when you first qualify for dental benefits, you may have to wait until the next annual enrollment period to join.

Who can be on your plan (who can be your dependent)

If your plan includes coverage for dependents, you can enroll the following family members on your plan. (They are referred to in this booklet as your “dependents”.)

- Your legal spouse
- Your dependent children – your own or those of your spouse
 - Under age 26, and they include your:
 - Biological children
 - Stepchildren
 - Legally adopted children, including any children placed with you for adoption
 - Foster children
 - Children you are responsible for under a qualified medical support order or court-order (whether or not the child resides with you)
 - Grandchildren in your court-ordered custody
 - A grandchild whose parent is already covered as a dependent under this plan

You may continue coverage for a disabled child past the age limit shown above. See the *Continuation of coverage for other reasons* in the *Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends* section for more information.

Adding new dependents

You can add the following new dependents any time during the year:

- A spouse - if you marry, you can put your spouse on your plan.
 - Your Employer must receive your completed enrollment information not more than 31 days after the date of your marriage.
 - Ask your Employer when benefits for your spouse will begin. It will be:
 - No later than the first day of the first calendar month after the date your Employer receives your completed enrollment information and
 - Within 31 days of the date of your marriage.
- A newborn child – Your newborn child is covered on your dental plan for the first 31 days after birth.
 - To keep your newborn covered, your Employer must receive your completed enrollment information within 31 days of birth.
 - You must still enroll the child within 31 days of birth even when coverage does not require payment of an additional contribution for the covered dependent.
 - If you miss this deadline, your newborn will not have dental benefits after the first 31 days.
- An adopted child – A child that you, or that you and your spouse adopts is covered on your plan for the first 31 days after the adoption is complete.
 - To keep your adopted child covered, your Employer must receive your completed enrollment information within 31 days after the adoption.
 - If you miss this deadline, your adopted child will not have dental benefits after the first 31 days.
- A stepchild – You may put a child of your spouse on your plan.
 - You must complete your enrollment information and send it to your Employer within 31 days after the date of your marriage with your stepchild's parent.
 - Ask your Employer when benefits for your stepchild will begin. It will be either on the date of your marriage or the first day of the month following the date your Employer receives your completed enrollment information.

Notification of change in status

It is important that you notify your Employer of any changes in your benefit status. This will help your Employer effectively maintain your benefit status. Please notify your Employer as soon as possible of status changes such as:

- Change of address or phone number
- Change in marital status
- Change of covered dependent status
- A covered dependent who enrolls in any other group dental plan

Special times you and your dependents can join the plan

You can enroll in these situations:

- When you did not enroll in this plan before because:
 - You were covered by another group dental plan, and now that other coverage has ended.
 - You had COBRA, and now that coverage has ended.
- You have added a dependent because of marriage, birth, adoption or foster care. See the *Adding new dependents* section for more information.
- When a court orders that you cover a current spouse or a minor child on your dental plan.

Your Employer or the party they designate must receive your completed enrollment information from you within 31 days of that date on which you no longer have the other coverage mentioned above.

Effective date of coverage

Your coverage will be in effect as of the date you become eligible for dental benefits.

Medical necessity requirements

The starting point for **covered benefits** under your plan is whether the services and supplies are **eligible dental services**. See the *Eligible dental services* and *Exclusions* sections plus the schedule of benefits.

Your plan pays for its share of the expense for **eligible dental services** only if the **eligible dental service** is **medically necessary**.

This section addresses the **medical necessity** requirements.

Medically necessary / medical necessity

As we said in the *Let's get started!* section, **medical necessity** is a requirement for you to receive a **covered benefit** under this plan.

The **medical necessity** requirements are in the *Glossary* section, where we define "**medically necessary, medical necessity**".

What are your eligible dental services?

The information in this section is the first step to understanding your plan's **eligible dental services**. If you have questions about this section, see the *How to contact us for help* section.

Your plan covers many kinds of dental care services and supplies. Your **eligible dental services** are listed in the schedule of benefits. There you will find the detailed list of **eligible dental services**. But sometimes those services are not covered at all or are covered only up to a limit.

You can find out about exclusions in the *Exclusions* and the *What rules and limits apply to dental care* sections, and about the limitations in the schedule of benefits.

Dental emergency

Eligible dental services include dental services provided for a **dental emergency**. The care provided must be a **covered benefit**.

If you have a **dental emergency**, you should consider calling your dental **in-network provider** who may be more familiar with your dental needs. However, you can get treatment from any **dentist** including one that is an **out-of-network provider**. If you need help in finding a **dentist**, call Member Services.

What rules and limits apply to dental care?

Several rules apply to the dental benefits. Following these rules will help you use your plan to your advantage by avoiding expenses that are not covered by your plan.

Alternate treatment rule

Sometimes there are several ways to treat a dental problem, all of which provide acceptable results.

If a charge is made for a non-**eligible dental** service or supply and an **eligible dental service** that would provide an acceptable result, then your plan will pay a benefit for the **eligible dental service** or supply.

If a charge is made for an **eligible dental service** but another **eligible dental service** that would provide an acceptable result is less expensive, the benefit will be for the least expensive **eligible dental service**.

The benefit will be based on the **in-network provider's negotiated charge** for the **eligible dental service** or, in the case of an **out-of-network provider**, on the **recognized charge**.

You should review the differences in the cost of alternate treatment with your **dental provider**. Of course, you and your **dental provider** can still choose the more costly treatment method. You are responsible for any charges in excess of what your plan will cover.

Coverage for dental work begun before you are covered by the plan

Your plan does not cover dental work that began before you were covered by the plan. This means that the following dental work is not covered:

- An appliance, or modification of an appliance, if an impression for it was made before you were covered by the plan
- A crown, bridge, or cast or processed restoration, if a tooth was prepared for it before you were covered by the plan
- Root canal therapy, if the pulp chamber for it was opened before you were covered by the plan

Orthodontic treatment rule

Orthodontic treatment is covered only for covered dependent children who are under age 20 on the date active **orthodontic treatment** begins.

This benefit does not cover charges for the following:

- Replacement of broken appliances
- Re-treatment of orthodontic cases
- Changes in treatment necessitated by an accident
- Maxillofacial surgery
- Myofunctional therapy
- Treatment of cleft palate
- Treatment of micrognathia
- Treatment of macroglossia
- Lingually placed direct bonded appliances and arch wires (i.e. "invisible braces")

The plan will not cover the charges for an orthodontic procedure if an active appliance for that procedure was installed before you were covered by the plan.

Reimbursement policies

We have the right to apply **Aetna** reimbursement policies. Those policies may reduce the **negotiated charge** or **recognized charge**. These policies take into account factors such as:

- The duration and complexity of a service
- When multiple procedures are billed at the same time, whether additional overhead is required
- Whether an assistant surgeon is necessary for the service
- If follow up care is included
- Whether other characteristics modify or make a particular service unique
- When a charge includes more than one claim line, whether any services described by a claim line are part of or incidental to the primary service provided and
- The educational level, licensure or length of training of the **provider**

Aetna reimbursement policies are based on our review of:

- The Centers for **Medicare** and Medicaid Services' (CMS) National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) and other external materials that say what billing and coding practices are and are not appropriate
- Generally accepted standards of dental practice and
- The views of **providers** and **dentists** practicing in the relevant clinical areas

We use commercial software to administer some of these policies. Some policies are different for professional services than for facility services.

When is there a waiting period?

Your plan has a waiting period for Type B, Type C services, and **orthodontic treatment** as follows:

- For Type B services, (Basic & Restorative services), your coverage will take effect after 6 months of continuous coverage under the plan.
- For Type C services, (Major services), your coverage will take effect after 6 months of continuous coverage under the plan.
- For **orthodontic treatment**, your coverage will take effect after 12 months of continuous coverage under the plan.

An advance claim review

The purpose of an advance claim review is to provide an estimate, in advance, of what we may pay for proposed services. Knowing ahead of time which services are **eligible dental services** and what your plan may pay helps you and your **dentist** make informed decisions about the care you are considering. The estimate is not a guarantee of coverage and payment.

In estimating the amount of benefits payable, we will look at alternate procedures, services, or courses of treatment for the dental condition in question in order to meet the expected result.

The estimate is voluntary. It is not necessary for **dental emergency services** or routine care such as cleaning teeth or check-ups or any other service.

When to get an advance claim review

An estimate is recommended whenever a course of dental treatment is likely to cost more than \$350. Here are the steps involved with getting an advance claim review:

1. Ask your **dentist** to write down a full description of the treatment you need. They must either use an **Aetna** claim form or an American Dental Association (ADA) approved claim form.
2. Your **dentist** should send the form to us before treating you.
3. We may request supporting images and other diagnostic records.
4. Once all of the information has been gathered, we will review the proposed treatment plan and provide you and your **dentist** with a statement outlining the estimated benefits payable.
5. You and your **dentist** can then decide how to proceed.

What is a course of dental treatment?

A course of dental treatment is a planned program of one or more services or supplies. The services or supplies are provided by one or more **dentists** to treat a dental condition that was diagnosed by the attending **dentist** as a result of an oral examination. A course of treatment starts on the date your **dentist** first renders a service to correct or treat the diagnosed dental condition.

What your plan doesn't cover – some eligible dental service exclusions

We already told you about the many dental care services and supplies that are eligible for coverage under your plan in the *What are your eligible dental services* section. In that section we also told you that some dental care services and supplies have exclusions and some are not covered at all (exclusions).

In this section we tell you about the exclusions that apply to your plan.

And just a reminder, you'll find benefit and coverage limitations in the schedule of benefits.

Exclusions

The following are not **eligible dental services** under your plan except as described in:

- The *Eligible dental services under your plan* section of this booklet or
- A rider or amendment issued to you for use with this booklet:

Charges for services or supplies

- Provided by **in-network providers** in excess of the **negotiated charge**
- Provided by an **out-of-network provider** in excess of the **recognized charge**
- Provided for your personal comfort or convenience, or the convenience of any other person, including a **dental provider**
- Provided in connection with treatment or care that is not covered under the plan
- Cancelled or missed appointment charges or charges to complete claim forms
- Charges for which you have no legal obligation to pay
- Charges that would not be made if you did not have coverage, including:
 - Care in charitable institutions
 - Care for conditions related to current or previous military service
 - Care while in the custody of a governmental authority

Charges in excess of any benefit limits

Any charges in excess of the benefit, dollar, visit, or frequency limits stated in the schedule of benefits.

Cosmetic services and plastic surgery (except to the extent coverage is specifically provided in the *Eligible Dental Services* section of the schedule of benefits)

- **Cosmetic** services and supplies including:
 - Plastic surgery
 - Reconstructive surgery
 - **Cosmetic** surgery
 - Personalization or characterization of dentures or other services and supplies which improve, alter or enhance appearance
 - Augmentation and vestibuloplasty and other services to protect, clean, whiten, bleach, alter the appearance of teeth whether or not for psychological or emotional reasons
- Facings on molar crowns and pontics will always be considered **cosmetic**

Court-ordered services and supplies

- Includes those court-ordered services and supplies, or those required as a condition of parole, probation, release or as a result of any legal proceeding.

Dental services and supplies

- Acupuncture, acupressure and acupuncture therapy
- Asynchronous dental treatment
- Crown, inlays and onlays, and veneers unless for one of the following:
 - It is treatment for decay or traumatic **injury** and teeth cannot be restored with a filling material
 - The tooth is an abutment to a covered partial denture or fixed bridge
- Dental implants, false teeth, prosthetic restoration of dental implants, plates, dentures, braces, mouth guards, and other devices to protect, replace or reposition teeth and removal of implants
- Dentures, crowns, inlays, onlays, bridges, or other prosthetic appliances or services used for the purpose of splinting, to alter vertical dimension, to restore occlusion, or correcting attrition, abrasion, or erosion
- First installation of a denture or fixed bridge, and any inlay and crown that serves as an abutment to replace congenitally missing teeth or to replace teeth, all of which were lost while you were not covered
- General anesthesia and intravenous sedation, unless specifically covered and done in connection with another **eligible dental service**
- Instruction for diet, tobacco counseling and oral hygiene
- Mail order and at-home kits for **orthodontic treatment**
- **Orthodontic treatment** except as covered in the *Eligible Dental Services* section of the schedule of benefits
- Dental services and supplies made with high noble metals (gold or titanium) except as covered in the *Eligible Dental Services* section of the schedule of benefits
- Services and supplies provided in connection with treatment or care that is not covered under the plan
- Replacement of a device or appliance that is lost, missing or stolen, and for the replacement of appliances that have been damaged due to abuse, misuse or neglect and for an extra set of dentures
- Replacement of teeth beyond the normal complement of 32
- Services and supplies provided where there is no evidence of pathology, dysfunction or disease, other than covered preventive services
- Space maintainers except when needed to preserve space resulting from the premature loss of deciduous teeth
- Surgical removal of impacted wisdom teeth when removed only for orthodontic reasons
- **Temporomandibular joint dysfunction/disorder**

Dental services and supplies that are covered in whole or in part:

- Under any other part of this plan
- Under any other plan of group benefits provided by the Customer

Examinations

Any dental examinations needed:

- Because a third party requires the exam. Examples include examinations to get or keep a job, or examinations required under a labor agreement or other contract.
- Because a court order requires it.
- To buy insurance or to get or keep a license.
- To travel.
- To go to a school, camp, or sporting event, or to join in a sport or other recreational activity.

Experimental or investigational

- **Experimental or investigational** drugs, devices, treatments or procedures

Non-medically necessary services

- Services, including but not limited to, those treatments, services, prescription drugs and supplies which are not **medically necessary** (as determined by **Aetna**) for the diagnosis and treatment of **illness, injury**, restoration of physiological functions, or covered preventive services. This applies even if they are prescribed, recommended or approved by your **physician** or **dentist**.

Other primary payer

- Payment for a portion of the charge that another party is responsible for as the primary payer

Outpatient prescription drugs, and preventive care drugs and supplements

- Prescribed drugs, pre-medication or analgesia

Personal care, comfort or convenience items

- Any service or supply primarily for your convenience and personal comfort or that of a third party

Providers and other health professionals

- Treatment by other than a **dentist**. However, the plan will cover some services provided by a licensed dental hygienist under the supervision and guidance of a **dentist**. These are:
 - Scaling of teeth
 - Cleaning of teeth
 - Topical application of fluoride.
- Charges submitted for services by an unlicensed **provider** or not within the scope of the **provider's** license.

Services paid under your medical plan

- Your plan will not pay for amounts that were paid for the same services under a medical plan covering you. When a dental service is covered under both plans, we will figure the amount that would be payable under this plan if you did not have other coverage, then subtract what was paid by your medical plan. If there is any difference, this plan will pay it. If the amount paid by your medical plan is equal to or more than the benefit under this plan, this plan will not pay anything for the service.

Services provided by a family member

- Services provided by a spouse, civil union partner, domestic partner, parent, child, step-child, brother, sister, in-law or any household member

Work related illness or injuries

- Coverage available to you under workers' compensation or under a similar program under local, state or federal law for any **illness** or **injury** related to employment or self-employment.
- A source of coverage or reimbursement will be considered available to you even if you waived your right to payment from that source. You may also be covered under a workers' compensation law or similar law.
- If you submit proof that you are not covered for a particular **illness** or **injury** under such law, then that **illness** or **injury** will be considered "not work related" regardless of cause.

Who provides the care

Just as the starting point for coverage under your plan is whether the services and supplies are **eligible dental services**, the foundation for getting covered care is through our network. This section tells you about **in-network** and **out-of-network providers**.

In-network providers

We have contracted with **dental providers** to provide **eligible dental services** to you. These **dental providers** make up the network for your plan. For you to receive the network level of benefits you must use **in-network providers** for **eligible dental services**.

The exceptions are:

- **Dental emergency services** – Refer to the *What are your eligible dental services* section
- **In-network providers** are not available to provide the service or supply that you need

You may select **in-network providers** from the **directory** or by logging on to our website at www.aetna.com. You can search our online **directory** for names and locations of **dental providers**.

You will not have to submit claims for treatment received from **in-network providers**. Your **in-network provider** will take care of that for you. And we will directly pay the **in-network provider** for what the plan owes.

Out-of-network dental providers

You also have access to **out-of-network providers**. This means you can receive **eligible dental services** from an **out-of-network provider**. If you use an **out-of-network provider** to receive **eligible dental services**, you are subject to a higher out-of-pocket expense and are responsible for:

- Paying your out-of-network **deductible**
- Your out-of-network **payment percentage**
- Any charges over our **recognized charge**
- Submitting your own claims

What the plan pays and what you pay

Who pays for your **eligible dental services** – this plan, both of us, or just you? That depends. This section gives the general rule and explains these key terms:

- Your **deductible**
- Your **payment percentage**
- Your maximums

We also remind you that sometimes you will be responsible for paying the entire bill – for example, if you get care that is not an **eligible dental service**.

The general rule

When you get **eligible dental services**:

- You pay your **deductible**

And then

- Your plan and you share the expense up to any **Plan Year** and **lifetime maximum**. The schedule of benefits lists how much you pay and how much your plan pays. The payment percentage may vary by the type of expense. Your share is called payment percentage.

And then

- You are responsible for any amounts above the **maximum**.

When we say “expense” in this general rule, we mean the **negotiated charge** for **in-network providers**, and **recognized charge** for **out-of-network providers**. See the *Glossary* section for what these terms mean.

Important note – when you pay all

You pay the entire expense for an **eligible dental service**:

When you get a dental care service or supply that is not **medically necessary**. See the *Medical necessity requirements* section.

In all these cases, the **dental provider** may require you to pay the entire charge. And any amount you pay will not count towards your **deductible** or towards your **Plan Year** or lifetime **maximum**.

Special financial responsibility

You are responsible for the entire expense of:

- Cancelled or missed appointments

Neither you nor we are responsible for:

- Charges for which you have no legal obligation to pay
- Charges that would not be made if you did not have coverage
- Charges, expenses or costs in excess of the **negotiated charge** for in-network **covered benefits**

Where your schedule of benefits fits in

This section explains some of the terms you will find in your schedule of benefits.

How your deductible works

Your **deductible** is the amount you need to pay for **eligible dental services** per **Plan Year** before your plan begins to pay for **eligible dental services**. Your schedule of benefits shows the **deductible** amounts for your plan.

How we count your deductible

When you see **in-network providers**, we count the **negotiated charge** toward your **in-network deductible**.

When you see **out-of-network providers**, we count the **recognized charge** toward your **out-of-network deductible**.

How your payment percentage works

Your **payment percentage** is the amount your plan pays for **eligible dental services** after you have paid your **deductible**. Your schedule of benefits shows you which **payment percentage** your plan will pay for specific **eligible dental services**.

How your maximum works

The maximum is the most your plan will pay for **eligible dental services** per **Plan Year** and lifetime incurred by you or your covered dependent after any applicable **deductible** and **payment percentage**. You are responsible for any amounts above the **maximum**.

Important note:

See the schedule of benefits for any **deductibles, payment percentage, maximum and maximum age, visit limits, and other limitations** that may apply.

Claim decisions and appeals procedures

In the previous section, we explained how you and the plan share responsibility for paying for your **eligible dental services**.

When a claim comes in, your employer decides how you and the plan will split the expense. We also explain what you can do if you think we got it wrong.

Claims are processed in the order in which they are received.

Claim procedures

You or your **dental provider** are required to send us a claim in writing. You can request a claim form from us. We will review that claim for payment to the **provider** or to you as appropriate.

The table below explains the claim procedures as follows:

Notice	Requirement	Deadline
Submit a claim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should notify and request a claim form from your employer The claim form will provide instructions on how to complete and where to send the form(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must send us notice and proof within 90 days If you are unable to complete a claim form, you may send us: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description of services Bill of charges Any dental documentation you received from your dental provider
<p>Proof of loss (claim)</p> <p>When you have received a service from an eligible dental provider, you will be charged.</p> <p>The information you receive for that service is your proof of loss.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A completed claim form and any additional information required by your employer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must send us notice and proof within 90 days
Benefit payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written proof must be provided for all benefits If any portion of a claim is contested by us, the uncontested portion of the claim will be paid promptly after the receipt of proof of loss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits will be paid as soon as the necessary proof to support the claim is received

If, through no fault of your own, you are not able to meet the deadline for filing a claim, your claim will still be accepted if it is filed as soon as possible. Unless you are legally incapacitated, late claims will not be covered if they are filed more than 24 months after the deadline.

Communicating our claim decisions

The amount of time that we have to tell you about our decision on a claim is shown below.

Post-service claim

A post service claim is a claim that involves dental care services you have already received.

Type of notice	Post-service claim
Initial decision by us	30 days
Extensions	15 days
If we request more information	30 days
Time you have to send us additional information	45 days

Adverse benefit determinations

We pay many claims at the full rate **negotiated charge** with **in-network providers** and the **recognized charge** with **out-of-network providers**, except for your share of the costs. But sometimes we pay only some of the claim. And sometimes we don't pay at all. Any time we don't pay even part of the claim that is an "adverse benefit determination" or "adverse decision".

If we make an adverse benefit determination, we will tell you in writing.

The difference between a complaint and an appeal

A complaint

You may not be happy about a **dental provider** or an operational issue, and you may want to complain. You can call or write Member Services. Your complaint should include a description of the issue. You should include copies of any records or documents that you think are important. We will review the information and provide you with a written response within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint. We will let you know if we need more information to make a decision.

An appeal

You can ask us to re-review an adverse benefit determination. This is called an appeal. You can appeal to us verbally or in writing.

Appeals of adverse benefit determinations

You can appeal our adverse benefit determination. We will assign your appeal to someone who was not involved in making the original decision. You must file an appeal within 180 calendar days from the time you receive the notice of an adverse benefit determination.

You can appeal by sending a written appeal to Member Services at the address on the notice of adverse benefit determination. Or you can call Member Services at number on your ID card. You need to include:

- Your name
- The employer's name
- A copy of the adverse benefit determination
- Your reasons for making the appeal
- Any other information you would like us to consider

Another person may submit an appeal for you, including a **dental provider**. That person is called an authorized representative. You need to tell us if you choose to have someone else appeal for you (even if it is your **dental provider**). You should fill out an authorized representative form telling us that you are allowing someone to appeal for you. You can get this form by contacting us. You can use an authorized representative at any level of appeal.

You can appeal two times under this plan. If you appeal a second time you must present your appeal within 60 calendar days from the date you receive the notice of the first appeal decision.

Timeframes for deciding appeals

The amount of time that we have to tell you about our decision on an appeal claim depends on the type of claim. The chart below shows a timetable view of the different types of claims and how much time we have to tell you about our decision.

Type of notice	Post-service appeal
Initial decision by us	30 days

Exhaustion of appeals process

In most situations you must complete the one level of appeal with us before you can take these other actions:

- Appeal through an external review process.
- Pursue arbitration, litigation or other type of administrative proceeding.

Recordkeeping

We will keep the records of all complaints and appeals for at least 10 years.

Fees and expenses

We do not pay any fees or expenses incurred by you when you submit a complaint or appeal.

Coordination of benefits

Some people have dental coverage under more than one plan. If you do, we will work together with your other plan(s) to decide how much each plan pays. This is called coordination of benefits (COB).

Key terms

Here are some key terms we use in this section. These terms will help you understand this COB section.

Allowable expense means:

- A dental care expense that any of your dental plans cover to any degree. If the dental care service is not covered by any of the plans, it is not an allowable expense. For example, **cosmetic surgery** generally is not an allowable expense under this plan.

In this section we talk about other “plans” which are those plans where you may have other coverage for dental care expenses, such as:

- Group or non-group, blanket, or franchise health insurance policies issued by insurers, HMOs, or health care service contractors
- Labor-management trustee plans, labor organization plans, employer organization plans, or employee benefit organization plans
- An automobile insurance policy
- **Medicare** or other governmental benefits
- Any contract that you can obtain or maintain only because of membership in or connection with a particular organization or group

Here’s how COB works

- The primary plan pays first. When this is the primary plan, we will pay your claims first as if the other plan does not exist.
- The secondary plan pays after the primary plan. When this is the secondary plan, we will pay benefits after the primary plan and will reduce the payment based on any amount the primary plan paid.
- We will never pay an amount that, when combined with payments from your other coverage, add up to more than 100% of the allowable expenses.

Determining who pays

Reading from top to bottom the first rule that applies will determine which plan is primary and which is secondary.

A plan that does not contain a COB provision is always the primary plan.

If you are:	Primary plan	Secondary plan
Covered under the plan as an employee, retired employee or dependent	The plan covering you as an employee or retired employee	The plan covering you as a dependent You cannot be covered as an employee and dependent
COB rules for dependent children		
Child of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents who are married or living together 	The “birthday rule” applies The plan of the parent whose birthday* (month and day only) falls earlier in the Plan Year *Same birthdays--the plan that has covered a parent longer is primary	The plan of the parent born later in the year (month and day only)* *Same birthdays--the plan that has covered a parent longer is primary
Child of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents separated or divorced or not living together • With court-order 	The plan of the parent whom the court said is responsible for dental coverage But if that parent has no coverage then the other spouse’s plan	The plan of the other parent But if that parent has no coverage, then his/her spouse’s plan is primary
Child of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents separated or divorced or not living together – court-order states both parents are responsible for coverage or have joint custody 	Primary and secondary coverage is based on the birthday rule	
Child of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents separated or divorced or not living together and there is no court-order 	The order of benefit payments is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan of the custodial parent pays first • The plan of the spouse of the custodial parent (if any) pays second • The plan of the noncustodial parents pays next • The plan of the spouse of the noncustodial parent (if any) pays last 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child covered by: Individual who is not a parent (i.e. stepparent or grandparent) 	Treat the person the same as a parent when making the order of benefits determination: See <i>Child of</i> content above	
Active or inactive employee	The plan covering you as an active employee (or as a dependent of an active employee) is primary to a plan covering you as a laid off or retired employee (or as a dependent of a former employee)	A plan that covers the person as a laid off or retired employee (or as a dependent of a former employee) is secondary to a plan that covers the person as an active employee (or as a dependent of an active employee)

COBRA or state continuation	The plan covering you as an employee or retiree or the dependent of an employee or retiree is primary to COBRA or state continuation coverage	COBRA or state continuation coverage is secondary to the plan that covers the person as an employee or retiree or the dependent of an employee or retiree
Longer or shorter length of coverage	If none of the above rules determine the order of payment, the plan that has covered the person longer is primary	
Other rules do not apply	If none of the above rules apply, the plans share expenses equally	

How are benefits paid?	
Primary plan	The primary plan pays your claims as if there is no other dental plan involved
Secondary plan	<p>The secondary plan calculates payment as if the primary plan did not exist, and then applies that amount to any allowable expenses under the secondary plan that were not covered by the primary plan.</p> <p>The secondary plan will reduce payments so the total payments do not exceed 100% of the total allowable expense</p>

Other dental coverage updates – contact information

You should contact us if you have any changes to your other coverage. We want to be sure our records are accurate so your claims are processed correctly. See the *How to contact us for help* section for details.

Right to receive and release needed information

We have the right to release or obtain any information we need for COB purposes. That includes information we need to recover any payments from your other dental plans.

Right to pay another carrier

Sometimes another plan pays something we would have paid under your plan. When that happens, we will pay your plan benefit to the other plan.

Right of recovery

If we pay more than we should have under the COB rules, we may recover the excess from:

- Any person we paid or for whom we paid
- Any other plan that is responsible under these COB rules.

When coverage ends

Coverage can end for a number of reasons. This section tells you how and why coverage ends.

When will your coverage end?

Coverage under this plan will end if:

- This plan is discontinued
- You voluntarily stop your coverage
- You are no longer eligible for coverage
- Your employer has notified us that your employment is ended
- You do not make any required contributions
- You become covered under another dental plan offered by your employer

When coverage may continue under the plan

Your coverage under this plan will continue if:

<p>Your employment ends because of illness, injury, sabbatical or other authorized leave as agreed to by your employer and us.</p>	<p>If required contribution payments are made for you, you may be able to continue to coverage under the plan as long as your employer agrees to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage may continue, until stopped by your employer, but not beyond 30 months from the start of your absence.
<p>Your employment ends because of a temporary lay-off, temporary leave of absence, sabbatical, or other authorized leave as agreed to by your employer.</p>	<p>If contribution payments are made for you, you may be able to continue to coverage under the plan as long as your employer agrees to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage will stop on the date that your employment ends.
<p>Your employment ends because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your job has been eliminated You have been placed on severance, or This plan allows former employees to continue their coverage. 	<p>You may be able to continue coverage. See the <i>Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends</i> section.</p>
<p>Your employment ends because of a paid or unpaid medical leave of absence</p>	<p>If contribution payments are made for you, you may be able to continue to coverage under the plan as long as your employer agrees to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage may continue until stopped by your employer but not beyond 30 months from the start of the absence.
<p>Your employment ends because of a leave of absence that is not a medical leave of absence</p>	<p>If contribution payments are made for you, you may be able to continue to coverage under the plan as long as your employer agrees to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage may continue until stopped by your employer but not beyond 1 month from the start of the absence.
<p>Your employment ends because of a military leave of absence.</p>	<p>If contribution payments are made for you, you may be able to continue to coverage under the plan as long as your employer agrees to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage may continue until stopped by your employer but not beyond 24 months from the start of the absence.

It is your employer's responsibility to let us know when your employment ends. The limits above may be extended only if your employer agrees in writing to extend them.

When will coverage end for any dependents?

Coverage for your dependent will end if:

- Your dependent is no longer eligible for coverage
- You do not make the required contribution toward the cost of dependents' coverage
- Your coverage ends for any of the reasons listed above

What happens to your covered dependents if you die?

Coverage for dependents may continue for some time after your death. See the *Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends* section for more information.

Why coverage could end for you and your dependents?

Your employer may end your coverage for any number of reasons—for some reasons your employer will give you notice before terminating your coverage, for other reasons your employer may terminate your coverage immediately.

Your employer will give you 30 days advance written notice if your employer ends your coverage because you commit fraud or intentionally misrepresent yourself when you applied for or obtained coverage. You can refer to the *General provisions – other things you should know* section for more information on rescissions.

On the date your coverage ends, we will refund to your employer any prepayments for periods after the date your coverage ended.

Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends

This section explains options you may have after your coverage ends under this plan. Your individual situation will determine what options you will have.

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) Rights

What are your COBRA rights?

COBRA gives some people the right to keep their dental coverage for 18, 29 or 36 months after a “qualifying event”. COBRA usually applies to employer of group sizes of 20 or more.

Here are the qualifying events that trigger COBRA continuation, who is eligible for continuation and how long coverage can be continued.

Qualifying event causing loss of coverage	Covered persons eligible for continued coverage	Length of continued coverage (starts from the day you lose current coverage)
Your active employment ends for reasons other than gross misconduct	You and your dependents	18 months
Your working hours are reduced	You and your dependents	18 months
You divorce or legally separate and are no longer responsible for dependent coverage	Your dependents	36 months
Your covered dependent children no longer qualify as dependent under the plan	Your dependent children	36 months
You die	Your dependents	36 months
You are a retiree eligible for retiree dental coverage and your former employer files for bankruptcy	You and your dependents	18 months

When do I receive COBRA information?

The chart below lists who is responsible for giving the notice, the type of notice they are required to give and the timing.

Employer/Group dental plan notification requirements		
Notice	Requirement	Deadline
General notice – employer or Aetna	Notify you and your dependents of COBRA rights	Within 90 days after active employee coverage begins
Notice of qualifying event – employer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your active employment ends for reasons other than gross misconduct • Your working hours are reduced • You die • You are a retiree eligible for retiree dental coverage and your former employer files for bankruptcy 	Within 30 days of the qualifying event or the loss of coverage, whichever occurs later
Election notice – employer or Aetna	Notify you and your dependents of COBRA rights when there is a qualifying event	Within 14 days after notice of the qualifying event
Notice of unavailability of COBRA – employer or Aetna	Notify you and your dependents if you are not entitled to COBRA coverage.	Within 14 days after notice of the qualifying event
Termination notice – employer or Aetna	Notify you and your dependents when COBRA coverage ends before the end of the maximum coverage period	As soon as practical following the decision that continuation coverage will end

You/your dependents notification requirements		
Notice of qualifying event – qualified beneficiary	Notify the employer if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You divorce or legally separate and are no longer responsible for dependent coverage Your covered dependent children no longer qualify as a dependent under the plan 	Within 60 days of the qualifying event or the loss of coverage, whichever occurs later
Disability notice	Notify the employer if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Social Security Administration determines that you or a covered dependent qualify for disability status 	Within 60 days of the decision of disability by the Social Security Administration, and before the 18 month coverage period ends
Notice of qualified beneficiary’s status change to non-disabled	Notify the employer if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Social Security Administration decides that the beneficiary is no longer disabled 	Within 30 days of the Social Security Administration’s decision
Enrollment in COBRA	Notify the employer if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are electing COBRA 	60 days from the qualifying event. You will lose your right to elect, if you do not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond within the 60 days And send back your application

How can you extend the length of your COBRA coverage?

The chart below shows qualifying events after the start of COBRA (second qualifying events):

Qualifying event	Person affected (qualifying beneficiary)	Total length of continued coverage
Disabled within the first 60 days of COBRA coverage (as determined by the Social Security Administration)	You and your dependents	29 months (18 months plus an additional 11 months)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You die You divorce or legally separate and are no longer responsible for dependent coverage Your covered dependent children no longer qualify as dependent under the plan 	You and your dependents	Up to 36 months

How do you enroll in COBRA?

You enroll by sending in an application and paying the **fee**. Your employer has 30 days to send you a COBRA election notice. It will tell you how to enroll and how much it will cost. You can take 60 days from the qualifying event to decide if you want to enroll. You need to send your application and pay the **fee**. If this is completed on time, you have enrolled in COBRA.

When is your first fee payment due?

Your first **fee** payment must be made within 45 days after the date of the COBRA election.

How much will COBRA coverage cost?

For most COBRA qualifying events you and your dependents will pay 102% of the total plan costs. This additional 2% covers administrative fees. If you apply for COBRA because of a disability, the total due will be 150% of the plan costs.

Can you add a dependent to your COBRA coverage?

You may add a new dependent during a period of COBRA coverage. They can be added for the rest of the COBRA coverage period if:

- They meet the definition of an eligible dependent.
- You notified the employer within 31 days of their eligibility.
- You pay the additional required **fees**.

When does COBRA coverage end?

COBRA coverage ends if:

- Coverage has continued for the maximum period.
- The plan ends. If the plan is replaced, you may be continued under the new plan.
- You and your dependents fail to make the necessary payments on time.
- You or a covered dependent become covered under another group dental plan.
- You or your dependents are continuing coverage during the 19th to 29th months of a disability, and the disability ends.

Continuation of coverage for other reasons**What exceptions are there for dental work when coverage ends?**

Your dental coverage may end while you or your covered dependent are in the middle of treatment. The plan does not cover dental services that are given after your coverage terminates. There is an exception. The plan will cover the following services if they are ordered while you were covered by the plan, and installed within 30 days after your coverage ends:

- Inlays
- Onlays
- Crowns
- Removable bridges
- Cast or processed restorations
- Dentures
- Fixed partial dentures (bridges)
- Root canals

Ordered means:

- For a denture: The impressions from which the denture will be made were taken
- For a root canal: The pulp chamber was opened

- For any other item: The teeth which will serve as retainers or supports, or the teeth which are being restored:
 - Must have been fully prepared to receive the item
 - Impressions have been taken from which the item will be prepared

How can you extend dental coverage for your disabled child beyond the plan age limits?

You have the right to extend dental coverage for your dependent child beyond the plan age limits. If your disabled child:

- Is not able to be self-supporting because of mental or physical disability, and
- Depends mainly (more than 50% of income) on you for support

The right to coverage will continue only as long as a **physician** certifies that your child still is disabled.

We may ask you to send us proof of the disability within 31 days of the date coverage would have ended. Before we extend coverage, we may ask that your child get a physical exam. We will pay for that exam.

We may ask you to send proof that your child is disabled after coverage is extended. We won't ask for this proof more than once a year. You must send it to us within 31 days of our request. If you don't, we can terminate coverage for your dependent child.

Your disabled child's coverage will end:

- On the date the child is no longer disabled and dependent upon you for support or
- As explained in the *When will coverage end for any dependents* section

How can you extend coverage for a child in college on medical leave?

You have the right to extend coverage for your dependent college student who takes a **medically necessary** leave of absence from school. The right to coverage will be extended until the earlier of:

- One year after the leave of absence begins, or
- The date coverage would otherwise end

To extend coverage the leave of absence must:

- Begin while the dependent child is suffering from a serious **illness** or **injury**,
- Cause the dependent child to lose status as a full-time student under the plan
- Be certified by the treating **physician** as **medically necessary** due to a serious **illness** or **injury**

We must receive documentation or certification of the **medical necessity** for a leave of absence:

- At least 30 days prior to the absence, if the medical reason for the absence and the absence are foreseeable, or
- 30 days after the start date of the medical leave of absence from school

The **physician** treating your child will be asked to keep us informed of any changes.

Reinstatement

If your coverage ends because you have not paid your **fee**, you may not be covered again for a period of 2 years from the date your coverage ends. If you are in an eligible class, you may request reinstatement for yourself and your eligible dependents at the end of such 2 years period. Your dental coverage will be subject to the rules under the *Late entrant rule*, and will be effective as described in the *Effective date of coverage* section.

General provisions – other things you should know

Administrative provisions

How you and we will interpret this booklet

We prepared this booklet according to federal and state laws that apply. You and we will interpret it according to these laws. Also, you are bound by our interpretation of this booklet when we administer your coverage, so long as we use reasonable discretion.

How we administer this plan

We apply policies and procedures we've developed to administer this plan.

Who's responsible to you

We are responsible to you for what our employees and other agents do.

We are not responsible for what is done by your **providers**. They are not our employees or agents.

Coverage and services

Your coverage can change

Your coverage is defined by the **group contract**. This document may have amendments too. Under certain circumstances, employer or the law may change your plan. Only **Aetna** may waive a requirement of your plan. No other person –the **provider** – can do this.

If a service cannot be provided to you

Sometimes things happen that are outside of our control. These are things such as natural disasters, epidemics, fire and riots.

We will try hard to get you access to the services you need even if these things happen. But if we can't, we may refund you or your employer any unearned **fee**.

Financial sanctions exclusions:

If coverage provided under this booklet violates or will violate any economic or trade sanctions, the coverage will be invalid immediately. For example, we cannot pay for **eligible dental services** if it violates a financial sanction regulation. This includes sanctions related to a person or a country under sanction by the United States, unless it is allowed under a written license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). You can find out more by visiting <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/default.aspx>.

Legal action

We encourage you to complete the appeal process before you take any legal action against us for any expense or bill. You cannot take any action until 60 days after we receive written submission of claim. See the *When you disagree - claim decisions and appeals procedures* section.

No legal action can be brought to recover payment under any benefit after 3 years from the deadline for filing claims.

Physical examinations and evaluations

At our expense, we have the right to have a **provider** of our choice examine you. This will be done at all reasonable times while a claim for benefits is pending or under review.

Records of expenses

You should keep complete records of your expenses. They may be needed for a claim.

Things that would be important to keep are:

- Names of **dental providers, dentists** and others **providers** who provide services
- Dates expenses are incurred
- Copies of all bills and receipts

Honest mistakes and intentional deception

Honest mistakes

You or your employer may make an honest mistake when you share facts with us. When we learn of the mistake, we may make a fair change in **fee** contribution or in your coverage. If we do, we will tell you what the mistake was. We won't make a change if the mistake happened more than 2 years before we learned of it.

Intentional deception

If we learn that you defrauded us or you intentionally misrepresented material facts, we can take actions that can have serious consequences for your coverage. These serious consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of coverage, starting at some time in the past. If we paid claims for your past coverage, we will want the money back.
- Loss of coverage going forward.
- Denial of benefits.
- Recovery of amounts we already paid.

We also may report fraud to criminal authorities.

Some other money issues

Assignment of benefits

When you see **in-network providers** they will usually bill us directly. When you see **out-of-network providers**, we may choose to pay you or to pay the **provider** directly. Unless we have agreed to do so in writing and to the extent allowed by law, we will not accept an assignment to an **out-of-network provider** under this **group contract**. This may include:

- The benefits due
- The right to receive payments or
- Any claim you make for damages resulting from a breach, or alleged breach, of the terms of this **group contract**

To request assignment you must complete an assignment form. The assignment form is available from the customer. The completed form must be sent to us for consent.

Recovery of overpayments

If a benefit payment is made by the Plan, to you or on your behalf, which exceeds the benefit amount that you are entitled to receive, the Plan has the right to require the return of the overpayment. The Plan has the right to reduce by the amount of the overpayment, any future benefit payment made to or on behalf of a Participant in the Plan. Another way that overpayments are recovered is by reducing future payments to the provider by the amount of the overpayment. These future payments may involve this Plan or other health plans that are administered by the Plan's third-party administrator - Aetna. Under this process, Aetna reduces future payments to providers by the amount of the overpayment they received, and then credit the recovered amount to the plan that overpaid the provider. Payments to providers under this Plan are subject to this same process when Aetna recovers overpayments for other plans administered by Aetna.

This right does not affect any other right of recovery the Plan may have with respect to overpayments.

Payment of fees

The first **fee** payment for this contract is due on or before your **effective date of coverage**. Your next **fee** payment will be due the 1st of each month ("**fee due date**"). Each **fee** payment is to be paid to us on or before the **fee due date**.

Your dental information

We will protect your dental information. We will use it and share it with others to help us process your **providers'** claims and manage your plan.

You can get a free copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. Just call Member Services at 1-877-238-6200. When you accept coverage under this plan, you agree to let your **providers** share your information with us. We will need information about your physical and mental condition and care.

Effect of benefits under other plans

Effect of prior coverage - transferred business

Prior coverage means:

- Any plan of group coverage that has been replaced by coverage under part or all of this plan.
- The plan must have been sponsored by the customer (e.g., transferred business).
- If you are eligible, the replacement can be complete, or in part for your eligible class. Any such plan is prior coverage if provided by another group contract or any benefit section of this plan.

If your coverage under any part of this plan replaces any prior coverage any benefits provided under such prior coverage may reduce benefits payable under this plan. See the *General coverage provisions* section of the schedule of benefits.

Dental coverage under this plan will continue uninterrupted for your dependent college student who takes a **medically necessary** leave of absence from school. See the *Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends – How can you extend dental coverage for a child in college on medical leave?* section.

Glossary

Aetna

Aetna Life Insurance Company, an affiliate, or a third party vendor under contract with **Aetna**.

Plan year

A period of 12 month beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st.

Calendar year maximum

This is the most this plan will pay for **eligible dental services** incurred by you during the **calendar year**.

Contribution

The amount you or the customer are required to pay to **Aetna** to continue coverage.

Copayments

The specific dollar amount you have to pay for **eligible dental services**. **Copayments** may be changed by **Aetna** upon 30 days written notice to the customer.

Cosmetic

Services, drugs or supplies that are primarily intended to alter, improve or enhance your appearance.

Covered benefits

Eligible dental services that meet the requirements for coverage under the terms of this plan.

Deductible

The amount you pay for **eligible dental services** per **calendar year** before your plan starts to pay.

Dental emergency

Any dental condition that:

- Occurs unexpectedly
- Requires immediate diagnosis and treatment in order to stabilize the condition, and
- Is characterized by symptoms such as severe pain and bleeding

Dental emergency services

Services and supplies given by a **dental provider** to treat a **dental emergency**.

Dental provider

Any individual legally qualified to provide dental services or supplies.

Dentist

A legally qualified **dentist** licensed to do the dental work he or she performs.

Directory

The list of **in-network providers** for your plan. The most up-to-date **directory** for your plan appears at www.aetna.com. When searching for **in-network providers**, you need to make sure that you are searching for **providers** that participate in your specific plan. **In-network providers** may only be considered **in-network providers** for certain Aetna plans.

Effective date of coverage

The date you and your dependent's coverage begins under this booklet as noted in our records.

Eligible dental services

The dental care services and supplies listed in the schedule of benefits and not listed or limited in the *What rules and limits apply to dental care* and *Exceptions* sections of this plan.

Experimental or investigational

A drug, device, procedure, or treatment that we find is **experimental** or **investigational** because:

- There is not enough outcome data available from controlled clinical trials published in the peer-reviewed literature to validate its safety and effectiveness for the **illness** or **injury** involved.
- The needed approval by the FDA has not been given for marketing.
- A national medical or dental society or regulatory agency has stated in writing that it is **experimental or investigational** or suitable mainly for research purposes.
- It is the subject of a Phase I, Phase II or the experimental or research arm of a Phase III clinical trial. These terms have the meanings given by regulations and other official actions and publications of the FDA and Department of Health and Human Services.
- Written protocols or a written consent form used by a facility **provider** state that it is **experimental or investigational**.
- It is provided or performed in a special setting for research purposes.

Health professional

A person who is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by law to provide dental care services to the public. For example, **providers** and dental assistants.

Illness

Poor health resulting from disease of the teeth or gums.

Injury or injuries

Physical damage done to the teeth or gums.

In-network provider

A **provider** listed in the **directory** for your plan.

Lifetime maximum

This is the most this plan will pay for **eligible dental services** incurred by a covered person during their lifetime.

Medicare

As used in this plan, **Medicare** means the health coverage provided by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended. It includes Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) or similar coverage that is an authorized alternative to Parts A and B of **Medicare**.

Medically necessary/medical necessity

Dental care services that we determine a **provider** using sensible clinical judgment would provide to a patient for the purpose of preventing, evaluating, diagnosing or treating an **illness, injury**, disease or its symptoms, and that we determine are:

- In accordance with generally accepted standards of dental practice
- Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's **illness, injury** or disease
- Not primarily for the convenience of the patient, **dentist**, or other health care **provider**
- Not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce the same benefit or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's **illness, injury** or disease

Generally accepted standards of dental practice means standards based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed dental literature and is:

- Generally recognized by the relevant dental community
- Consistent with the standards set forth in policy issues involving clinical judgment

Negotiated charge

This is either:

- The amount **in-network providers** have agreed to accept
- The amount we agree to pay directly to **in-network providers** or third party vendor (including any administrative fee in the amount paid)

for providing **eligible dental services** to covered persons in the plan.

Orthodontic treatment

This is any:

- Medical service or supply
- Dental service or supply

furnished to prevent or to diagnose or to correct a misalignment:

- Of the teeth
- Of the bite
- Of the jaws or jaw joint relationship

whether or not for the purpose of relieving pain.

The following are not considered **orthodontic treatment**:

- The installation of a space maintainer
- A surgical procedure to correct malocclusion

Out-of-network provider

A **provider** who is not an **in-network provider** and does not appear in the **directory** for your plan.

Payment Percentage

The specific percentage we have to pay for **eligible dental services**.

Physician

A skilled health care professional trained and licensed to practice medicine under the laws of the state where they practice; specifically, doctors of medicine or osteopathy.

Provider

A **dentist**, or other entity or person licensed, or certified under applicable state and federal law to provide dental care services to you.

Recognized charge

The amount of an **out-of-network provider's** charge that is eligible for coverage. You are responsible for all amounts above the **recognized charge**. The **recognized charge** may be less than the **provider's** full charge.

Your plan's **recognized charge** applies to all out-of-network **eligible dental services**. In all cases, the **recognized charge** is based on the geographic area where you receive the service or supply.

Except as otherwise specified below, the **recognized charge** for each service or supply is what the **provider** bills.

The **recognized charge** for **providers** in the dental out-of-network savings program is the lesser of what the **provider** bills and the agreed upon rate for **providers**, with whom we have a contract through any third party that is not an affiliate of **Aetna**.

Your out-of-network cost sharing applies when you get care from dental out-of-network savings program **providers** except for **emergency services**.

Special terms used:

Geographic area

The geographic area made up of the first three digits of the U.S. Postal Service zip codes. If we determine we need more data for a particular service or supply, we may base rates on a wider geographic area such as an entire state.

Additional information:

Get the most value out of your benefits. Use the "Estimate the Cost of Care" tool on Aetna Navigator® to help decide whether to get care in-network or out-of-network. **Aetna's** secure member website at www.aetna.com may contain additional information which may help you determine the cost of a service or supply. Log on to Aetna Navigator® to access the "Estimate the Cost of Care" feature. Within this feature, view our "Dental Cost of Care" tool.

Temporomandibular joint dysfunction/disorder

This is:

- A **temporomandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction/disorder** or any similar disorder of the jaw joint
- A myofascial pain dysfunction (MPD) of the jaw
- Any similar disorder in the relationship between the jaw joint and the related muscles and nerves

Discount programs

Discount arrangements

We can offer you discounts on health care related goods or services. Sometimes, other companies provide these discounted goods and services. These companies are called “third party service providers”. These third party service providers may pay us so that they can offer you their services.

Third party service providers are independent contractors. The third party service provider is responsible for the goods or services they deliver. We have the right to change or end the arrangements at any time.

These discount arrangements are not insurance. We don't pay the third party service providers for the services they offer. You are responsible for paying for the discounted goods or services.

Wellness and other incentives

We may encourage and incent you to access certain dental services, to use online tools that enhance your coverage and services and to continue participation as an **Aetna** member. You and your **provider** can talk about these dental services and decide if they are right for you. We may also encourage and incent you to participate in a wellness or health improvement program. Incentives may include but are not limited to:

- Modification to **deductible** or **payment percentage** amounts
- **Fee** discounts or rebates
- Contributions to a health savings account
- Fitness center membership reimbursement
- Merchandise
- Coupons
- Gift cards
- Debit cards
- Any combination of the above

The award of any such incentive shall not depend upon the result of a wellness or health improvement activity or upon a member's health status.

Continuation of Coverage During an Approved Leave of Absence Granted to Comply With Federal Law

This continuation of coverage section applies only for the period of any approved family or medical leave (approved FMLA leave) required by Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA). If your Employer grants you an approved FMLA leave for a period in excess of the period required by FMLA, any continuation of coverage during that excess period will be subject to prior written agreement between Aetna and your Employer.

If your Employer grants you an approved FMLA leave in accordance with FMLA, you may, during the continuance of such approved FMLA leave, continue Health Expense Benefits for you and your eligible dependents.

At the time you request the leave, you must agree to make any contributions required by your Employer to continue coverage. Your Employer must continue to make premium payments.

If Health Expense Benefits has reduction rules applicable by reason of age or retirement, Health Expense Benefits will be subject to such rules while you are on FMLA leave.

Coverage will not be continued beyond the first to occur of:

- The date you are required to make any contribution and you fail to do so.
- The date your Employer determines your approved FMLA leave is terminated.
- The date the coverage involved discontinues as to your eligible class. However, coverage for health expenses may be available to you under another plan sponsored by your Employer.

Any coverage being continued for a dependent will not be continued beyond the date it would otherwise terminate.

If Health Expense Benefits terminate because your approved FMLA leave is deemed terminated by your Employer, you may, on the date of such termination, be eligible for Continuation Under Federal Law on the same terms as though your employment terminated, other than for gross misconduct, on such date. If the group contract provides any other continuation of coverage (for example, upon termination of employment, death, divorce or ceasing to be a defined dependent), you (or your eligible dependents) may be eligible for such continuation on the date your Employer determines your approved FMLA leave is terminated or the date of the event for which the continuation is available.

If you acquire a new dependent while your coverage is continued during an approved FMLA leave, the dependent will be eligible for the continued coverage on the same terms as would be applicable if you were actively at work, not on an approved FMLA leave.

If you return to work for your Employer following the date your Employer determines the approved FMLA leave is terminated, your coverage under the group contract will be in force as though you had continued in active employment rather than going on an approved FMLA leave provided you make request for such coverage within 31 days of the date your Employer determines the approved FMLA leave to be terminated. If you do not make such request within 31 days, coverage will again be effective under the group contract only if and when Aetna gives its written consent.

If any coverage being continued terminates because your Employer determines the approved FMLA leave is terminated, any Conversion Privilege will be available on the same terms as though your employment had terminated on the date your Employer determines the approved FMLA leave is terminated.