



Enhanced Dental Benefits - Third Dental Cleaning Option Pregnant Women and Persons with Diabetes

Few things hold greater value than the birth of a healthy baby. Because studies have shown that gum disease may increase a woman's risk of having a pre-term delivery of a low birth-weight baby, Delta Dental of Arizona recommends that pregnant women receive adequate dental cleanings. Researchers suspect that the bacteria that cause periodontal disease can hasten the production of labor-inducing signals that, in turn, cause premature labor.

Research also suggests that early prevention and treatment of gum disease may result in significantly improved outcomes for a person with diabetes. One study by the Journal of the American Dental Association, October, 2003 found that when diabetic patients' periodontal infections were treated, they experienced a marked improvement in their ability to manage their blood sugar.

Appropriately providing added cleanings to patients that are pregnant or have diabetes is one way of improving health and lowering overall costs.

Delta Dental of Arizona (DDAZ) is a proponent of preventive care. We are pleased to announce that as of January 1, 2007, we will be including a third dental cleaning for women who are in their third trimester of pregnancy, or persons with diabetes on all of the plan designs offered by DDAZ. This additional benefit to our current plan designs will not reflect in a premium increase and reinforces our commitment to the highest quality care for our subscribers.

The third dental cleaning option will be available on January 1, 2007. Qualified members choosing to add the option to their plan can register on-line on after January 1, 2007 by visiting www.deltadentalaz.com.

The goal at Delta Dental of Arizona is to provide employers with choices, freedom and resources to help manage the health of their employees and their employees' families. Should you have any questions regarding this enhanced benefit, feel free to call your Broker or Delta Dental Sales Representative.

Sincerely,

Gary B. Feldman
Delta Dental of Arizona
Vice President of Sales and Broker Relations