

MAXILLOFACIAL AND ORAL SURGERY, P.A.

University of Minnesota, Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

SURGERY ▪ RESEARCH ▪ EDUCATION

Advance notice to people with Medicare that *Medicare Will Not Pay for Most Dental Care and Dentures*

The purpose of this advance notice is to help you make an informed choice about whether or not you want to receive these dental services, knowing that you will have to pay for them yourself. We do not send claims to Medicare for dental care or dentures that are always excluded from Medicare coverage.

When you receive dental services that are not Medicare benefits, you are responsible to pay for them personally or through any other insurance that you may have. Medicare does not pay for all of your health care costs. Medicare only pays for covered benefits. When services (for example, most dental care services) are not Medicare-covered benefits, Medicare will not pay for them.

Before you make a decision, you should read this entire notice carefully.

- **The Medicare program does not cover most routine dental services.**

The Medicare law clearly excludes coverage “for services in connection with the care, treatment, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth or structures directly supporting teeth,” and dentists may not be required to submit Medicare claims for such services.

- For people with Medicare, this means that Medicare will not pay for most routine dental care such as fillings, cleanings, x-rays, and dentures, even if those services are performed in a hospital.

Payment for most dental care is your responsibility.

- **A narrow exception permits coverage of certain dental services that are necessary to the provision of certain Medicare-covered medical services. For example, Medicare may cover the following services.***

- Extraction of a tooth as part of a repair of a fractured jaw.
- Maxillofacial surgery for pathological or traumatic medical conditions (for example, in case of a serious injury).
- Prosthetic rehabilitation to replace or treat certain oral and/or facial structures related to covered medical and surgical interventions (for example, cancer surgery).
- Extraction of teeth prior to radiation treatment of the jaw.
- Oral examination prior to kidney transplantation.

- **Medicare may also cover certain medical procedures that dentists are licensed to perform (for example, a biopsy for oral cancer).***

**These are not all-inclusive lists. These examples are for illustrative purposes.*

If you have any additional questions concerning Medicare coverage for dental services, you can contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has reviewed this American Dental Association notice about dental coverage and confirmed the accuracy of its content. This notice is only a general summary of dental care exclusions from Medicare benefits. It is not a legal document. The official Medicare program provisions are contained in relevant laws, regulations, and rulings.