

Medical Assistance Dental Limits

A Factsheet for HealthChoices



As part of the fiscal year 2011-12 state budget, the Medical Assistance (MA) program reduced pharmacy and dental benefits for most adult MA consumers. Governor Wolf restored full pharmacy benefit in April 2015.

Dental – The state reduced dental benefits in September 2011 for most adults to:

- Limit coverage of dentures to one set per lifetime (reset April 2015); and
- Require a “benefit limit exception” for coverage of crowns, root canals, periodontal services, and additional dentures.

What qualifies for a Benefit Limit Exception?

The treating dentist can request a “benefit limit exception” from the MA managed care plan. A letter from a PCP or specialist is often necessary for a dental exception request.

(f) *Exceptions.*

(1) The Department is authorized to grant exceptions to the limits specified in subsections (b) and (e) when it determines that one of the following criteria applies:

(i) The recipient has a serious chronic systemic illness or other serious health condition and **denial of the exception will jeopardize the life of or result in the serious deterioration of the health** of the recipient.

(ii) Granting the exception is a cost-effective alternative for the MA Program.

(iii) Granting the exception is necessary in order to comply with Federal law.

55 Pa Code s. 1101.31(f) (emphasis added). Full appeal rights apply if the MCO denies the exception request.