

Alabama Medicaid Dental Program

An Overview

Medicaid pays for routine dental care for children under age 21 as long as the child is eligible for full Medicaid. Most children are no longer eligible after their 19th birthday unless they are eligible for another category. Dental services must be provided by licensed dentists enrolled as Medicaid dental providers. Adults age 21 and older are not eligible for dental coverage through Medicaid.

Routine procedures involving the teeth covered by Medicaid include:

- A dental checkup every six months
- A dental cleaning every six months
- Crowns and buildups
- Extractions
- Fillings
- Fluoride treatments
- Space maintainers
- Periodontal scaling and root planing
- Sealants
- Root Canals
- X-rays



Certain services require prior authorization by written request to Medicaid. Requests should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the anticipated date of the procedure. These procedures include:

- Non-surgical periodontal treatment, e.g. periodontal scaling and/or root planing.
- Outpatient or inpatient hospitalization coverage and dental services performed in skilled nursing facilities (SNF) for medically necessary dental procedures on children.
- Limited outpatient and inpatient hospitalization coverage for adults with dental problems exacerbating medical conditions. The dental procedures themselves are not covered, only facility and anesthesia services.
- Orthodontic services considered medically necessary for children with cleft lip/palate and/or other severe facial and cranial abnormalities, and who are served through Children's Rehabilitation Services.

Alabama Medicaid does NOT cover the following services:

- Routine orthodontic care, e.g., braces
- Routine partials, dentures or bridgework
- All-porcelain crowns
- Periodontal or gum surgery

Dental benefits are NOT provided for:

- Any female covered only for family planning services under the Plan First Program.
- Any recipient with partial Medicaid coverage
- Dentists should verify eligibility of these patients at every visit.

If you have questions concerning a specific recipient's Medicaid dental coverage, coverage can be verified through Medicaid's Automated Voice Response System (AVRS) at 1-800-727-7848 or by contacting the Alabama Medicaid Dental Program at 334-242-5582.

