

Information About Dental Insurance and Orthodontics Coverage **for Current and Aged Out Foster Youth Over the Age of 18**

Updated April 2016

Important, as of January 1, 2014, insurance for former foster youth changed. Former foster youth now qualify for aged out foster youth Medicaid insurance through the month of their 26th birthday. To view more information, please visit the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project's home page at texasfosteryouth.org.

Dental Coverage for Those Under 21

Aged out foster youth who have Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) Medicaid will receive traditional Medicaid dental services including Texas Health Steps dental checkups through the month of their 21st birthday.

Services Included for Those Under 21:

- Preventative services
 - Dental exams
 - Cleaning
 - Oral health education
 - Application of topical fluoride or sealants to certain teeth
 - Maintenance of space
- Treatment services
 - Restorations (fillings/ crowns)
 - Endodontic/periodontic treatment
 - Prosthodontics (full/ partial dentures)
 - Oral surgery
 - Implant services and Maxillofacial prosthetics
- Emergency dental services
 - Procedures necessary to control bleeding, relieve pain, and eliminate acute infection
 - Procedures that are required to prevent imminent loss of teeth
 - Treatment of injuries to the teeth or supporting structures
- Orthodontic services (Prior Authorization required- see below)
 - Correction of cleft palate
 - Crossbite therapy
 - Treatment for severe, handicapping malocclusion
 - Treatment for facial accidents involving severe traumatic deviation.

On pages 92-142 of the [Texas Superior Health Plan Provider Manual](#), you can find:

- More details of services available.

- Whether prior authorization by the insurance company is required.
- How often you can obtain services.

Prior Authorization requirements for orthodontic services:

Orthodontic services are subject to a pre-authorization review and are based on medical necessity. When a member goes to their general dentist and the dentist feels there is a need for orthodontic services, they can then send you to an orthodontic office that accepts your insurance. After the orthodontist has done an evaluation, they will send in the paperwork to request prior authorization and supporting documents to prove the medical necessity.

If Medicaid determines braces are not medically necessary and you are still in foster care, the judge in your CPS case may be able to order CPS to pay for braces if you are experiencing pain with chewing or other problems related to the position of your teeth or your teeth are noticeably poorly aligned. You should talk to your CASA, attorney ad litem or judge if you need braces.

If the judge orders CPS to pay for braces, your caseworker will need to submit the FORM 4116 Manual Pay Voucher, a signed copy of the court order directing that you, the foster youth, should be receiving orthodontic treatment (braces), proof that Medicaid denied the claim and invoices from the provider to the person responsible for processing payments in your CPS region.

If you are a current or former foster youth with braces who is being told incorrectly that you cannot receive adjustments or removal of braces for any reason, including because you are over 18 and are too old, **you should contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project toll free at 877-313-3688 or at info@texasfosteryouth.org for assistance in resolving the issue.**

Dental Coverage for Those Age 21-26

Once you turn 21, you won't have dental insurance unless you choose a Medicaid insurance plan that has a value added service covering dental work. So when selecting a plan, if you want dental coverage, you need to see if the plan has it and what it covers. You should also review the other value added services on each possible plan. To view what services are available on your plan, view the link below for Star Medicaid information and select your county.

Additional information:

- DentaQuest/ Texas Superior Health Plan Provider Manual: www.dentaquest.com/getattachment/State-Plans/Regions/texas/Dentists-Page/TX-Superior-Medicare-Me-740_February-26-2015.pdf
- Dental Health Steps Dental Program: www.dshs.state.tx.us/dental/thsteps_dental.shtm
- DentaQuest Contacts by Regions: dentaquest.com/getattachment/State-Plans/Regions/texas/Dentists-Page/Let-s-Talk/Let-s-Talk/429507_3_0_Texas-PR-Region-Udpate-6-25-2014.pdf
- STAR Medicaid information: www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/managed-care/star/client-information.shtml
- STAR Health information: www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Medical_Services/guide-star.asp

- Other Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) Medicaid information-
texasfosteryouth.org/medical-issues-and-health-insurance/

Please call the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project (texasfosteryouth.org) if you are having any issues with accessing dental or orthodontic services and are not able to resolve them. You can reach us at info@texasfosteryouth.org or toll free at 877-313-3688.