BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

# Taking Care of Dental Health Influences Overall Health.

## BlueCare Dental Enhanced Benefit℠

A recent study from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois confirms that members who have certain conditions, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, can significantly lower medical costs and live healthier lives when they maintain good oral health.[1] For example, dental problems may spell trouble for people who have these health issues, or are pregnant. BCBSIL is committed to promoting the health and wellness of its members; that's why we provide the **BlueCare Dental Enhanced Benefit** to all group dental programs. The program provides additional dental benefits to your employees with specific health issues.

Medical/Dental integration focusing on member health has the potential to reduce overall health care costs by lowering the incidence of more serious complications. In fact, receiving regular preventive dental services can save thousands of dollars in medical costs – an average of **16% less**[1] than those not receiving dental care.

### What Does the Enhanced Benefit Program Provide?

This program provides additional benefits to members who are receiving medical care for diabetes, cardiovascular disease or pregnancy. These members may receive an additional one of the following after standard benefits have been completed:

- Routine cleaning
- Periodontal maintenance
- Periodontal scaling and root planing (up to 2 quadrants)

**DIABETES**

**CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE**

**PREGNANCY**

**PROVIDING EXTRA BENEFITS FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM**

Please refer to your Dental Benefit Booklet for additional benefit information.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

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# BlueCare Dental Enhanced Benefit

## BlueCare Dental Connection℠

BlueCare Dental Connection is a proactive wellness program designed to help prevent dental disease by promoting wellness and preventive care. Through this program, BCBSIL reaches out to educate members about preventive care, as well as those identified as having health conditions that may be complicated by dental disease.

BlueCare Dental Connection provides:

- Member outreach to educate about the link between gum disease and other health issues, such as diabetes and heart disease
- 24/7 use of the online Dental Wellness Center®[2], which provides facts and tools to help members learn about oral care

To access the Dental Wellness Center, members can log in to Blue Access for Members℠ at **bcbsil.com** and select the **My Health** tab on the dashboard, then click on **Wellness** and scroll to the **Dental Wellness Center**.

The Dental Wellness Center allows members to:

- Ask questions through **Ask a Dentist**
- Locate an in-network dentist using **Find a Dentist**
- Research dental fees with the **Dental Cost Advisor**
- Search the **Dental Dictionary** for common terms
- View **Educational Videos** on dental topics

**Want to learn more about BlueCare Dental℠? Contact your BCBSIL Account Representative.**

**Research estimates that almost 80 percent of adults in the U.S. have some form of periodontal (gum) disease, according to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.**

1. Medical Dental Integration Studies conducted by Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans in Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.
2. The Dental Wellness Center is a service provided by Dental Network of America, a separate company that acts as the administrator of dental programs for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois.