

BENEFIT PLAN

Prepared for
Columbia University

Dental Maintenance Organization - New Jersey
Specialty Care Dentist Services

**What Your Plan
Covers and How
Benefits are Paid**

**Aetna Life Insurance Company
Booklet-certificate**

This Booklet-certificate is part of the Group policy between
Aetna Life Insurance Company and the Policyholder



Booklet-certificate

Comprehensive dental insurance plan

Prepared for:

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Underwritten by Aetna Life Insurance Company



Welcome

Thank you for choosing **Aetna**[®].

Your plan is comprised of two sets of issued documents. This certificate is issued for **specialty dentist** services. Whereas, the DMO primary care services are covered under the Aetna Dental Inc group agreement Form DM HGrpAg-Dental 04, certificate Form DM HCOC-ManagedDental 06 and schedule of benefits Form DM HSOB-ManagedDental 05.

This is your booklet-certificate. It is one of three documents that together describe the benefits covered by your **Aetna** plan for dental coverage.

This booklet-certificate will tell you about your **covered benefits** – what they are and how you get them. If you become covered, this booklet-certificate becomes your certificate of coverage under the **group policy**, and it replaces all certificates describing similar coverage that we sent to you before. The second document is the schedule of benefits. It tells you how we share expenses for **eligible dental services** and tells you about limits – like when your plan covers only a certain number of visits.

The third document is the **group policy** between **Aetna Life Insurance Company** (“**Aetna**”) and the policyholder. Ask the policyholder if you have any questions about the **group policy**.

Sometimes, we may send you documents that are amendments, endorsements, attachments, inserts or riders. They change or add to the documents that they’re part of. When you receive these, they are considered part of your **Aetna** plan for coverage.

Where to next? Try the *Let’s get started!* section. *Let’s get started!* gives you a summary of how your plan works. The more you understand, the more you can get out of your plan.

Welcome to your **Aetna** plan.

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Schedule of benefits

Issued with your booklet-certificate

Let's get started!

Here are some basics. First things first – some notes on how we use words. Then we explain how your plan works so you can get the most out of your coverage. But for all the details – and this is very important – you need to read this entire booklet-certificate and the schedule of benefits. And if you need help or more information, we tell you how to reach us.

Some notes on how we use words in the booklet-certificate and schedule of benefits

- When we say “you” and “your”, we mean you and any covered dependents
- When we say “us”, “we”, and “our”, we mean **Aetna**
- Some words appear in **bold** type and we define them in the *Glossary* section

Sometimes we use technical dental language that is familiar to **dental providers**.

What your plan does – providing covered benefits

Your plan provides **covered benefits**. These are **eligible dental services** for which your plan has the obligation to pay.

How your plan works – starting and stopping coverage

Your coverage under the plan has a start and an end. You start coverage after the eligibility and enrollment process is completed. To learn more see the *Who the plan covers* section.

You can lose coverage for many reasons. To learn more see the *When coverage ends* section.

Ending coverage under the plan doesn't necessarily mean you lose coverage with us. See the *Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends* section.

How your plan works while you are covered

Your coverage helps you get and pay for **eligible dental services**.

Eligible dental services

Eligible dental services meet these requirements:

- They are listed in the *Eligible dental services* section in the schedule of benefits.
- They are not carved out in these sections:
 - *What are your eligible dental services?*
 - *What rules and limits apply to dental care?*
 - *What your plan doesn't cover – exclusions* section. We refer to this section as “Exclusions”.
- They are not beyond any limits in the *What rules and limits apply to dental care?* section and the schedule of benefits.

Dental providers

You may choose any **specialty dentist** for the care you need. For more information about the role of your **specialty dentist**, see the *Who provides the care* section.

Paying for dental services – the general requirement

The general requirement for the plan to pay any part of the expense for an **eligible dental service** is that the **dental service** is **medically necessary**.

You will find details on **medical necessity** requirements in the *Medical necessity requirements* section.

Paying for eligible dental services – sharing the expense

Generally your plan and you will share the expense of your **eligible dental services** when you meet the general requirements for paying.

But sometimes your plan will pay the entire expense; and sometimes you will. For more information see the *What the plan pays and what you pay* section and see the schedule of benefits.

How to contact us for help

We are here to answer your questions. You can contact us by registering and logging onto our self-service website available 24/7 that requires registration and logon at <https://www.aetna.com/>.

In our website you can get reliable dental information, tools and resources. Online tools will make it easier for you to:

- Make informed decisions about your dental care
- View claims
- Research care and treatment options
- Access information on health and wellness

You can also contact us by:

- Calling **Aetna** at the number on your ID card
- Writing us at **Aetna Life Insurance Company**, 151 Farmington Ave, Hartford, CT 06156

Your ID card

You don't need to show an ID card. When visiting a **dentist**, just provide your:

- Name
- Date of birth
- ID card number or social security number

The dental office can use that information to verify your eligibility and benefits. Your ID card number is located on your digital ID card which you can view or print by going to our self-service website. If you don't have internet access, call us. You can also access your ID card when you're on the go. To learn more, visit us at www.aetna.com/mobile.

Who the plan covers

You will find information in this section about:

- Who is eligible
- When you can join the plan
- Who can be on your plan (who can be your dependent)
- Adding new dependents
- Special times you and your dependents can join the plan

Who is eligible

The policyholder decides and tells us who is eligible for dental care coverage.

When you can join the plan

As an employee you can enroll yourself and your dependents:

- At any time
- Once each **Calendar Year** during the annual enrollment period
- At other special times during the year (see the *Special times you and your dependents can join the plan* section below)

If you don't enroll yourself and your dependents when you first qualify for dental benefits, you may have to wait until the next annual enrollment period to join.

Who can be on your plan (who can be your dependent)

You can enroll the following family members on your plan. (They are referred to in this booklet-certificate as your "dependents".)

- Your spouse including a civil union partner as defined by New Jersey state law. We also mean civil union or civil union partner when we refer to:
 - Husband/wife (spouse)
 - Family/immediate family
 - Dependent
 - Next of kin
- We mean civil union when we refer to:
 - Marriage
 - Widow/widower/widowed

- Your domestic partner as established in New Jersey:
 - Prior to February 19, 2007
 - On or after February 19, 2007 for couples who are age 62 or older as evidenced by a copy of an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership filed with the local registrar and marked as “filed”.
- A domestic partnership providing all of the rights and benefits of marriage valid in another state will be valid for this benefit plan.
- Your dependent children – yours or your spouse’s or partner’s
 - Dependent children must be:
 - Under 26 years of age
 - Dependent children include:
 - Natural children
 - Stepchildren
 - Adopted children including those placed with you for adoption
 - Foster children
 - Children you are responsible for under a qualified medical support order or court order
 - Grandchildren in your legal custody

You may continue coverage for a disabled child past the age limit shown above. See the *Continuation of coverage for other reasons* in the *Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends* section for more information.

Adding new dependents

You can add the following new dependents any time during the year:

- A spouse - if you marry, you can put your spouse on your plan.
 - We must receive your completed enrollment information not more than 60 days after the date of your marriage.
 - Ask the policyholder when benefits for your spouse will begin. It will be:
 - No later than the first day of the first calendar month after the date we receive your completed enrollment information
- A domestic partner - If you enter a domestic partnership valid in another state, you can enroll your domestic partner on your dental plan.
 - We must receive your completed enrollment information not more than 60 days after the date you enter into the domestic partnership.
 - Ask the policyholder when benefits for your domestic partner will begin. It will be:
 - No later than the first day of the first calendar month after the date we receive your completed enrollment information and
 - Within 60 days of the date of entering into the domestic partnership.
- A newborn child – your newborn child is covered on your dental plan for the first 60 days from the moment of birth.
 - To keep your newborn covered, we must receive your completed enrollment information within 60 days from the moment of birth.
 - You must still enroll the child within 60 days from the moment of birth even when coverage does not require payment of an additional **premium contribution** for the covered dependent.
 - If you miss this deadline, your newborn will not have dental benefits after the first 60 days.
- An adopted child – A child that you, or that you and your spouse or domestic partner adopts is covered on your plan for the first 60 days after the adoption is complete.
 - To keep your adopted child covered, we must receive your completed enrollment information within 60 days after the adoption.
 - If you miss this deadline, your adopted child will not have dental benefits after the first 60 days.

- A stepchild – You may put a child of your spouse or domestic partner on your plan.
 - You must complete your enrollment information and send it to us within 60 days after the date of your marriage or your Declaration of Domestic Partnership with your stepchild’s parent.
 - Ask the policyholder when benefits for your stepchild will begin. It is either on the date of your marriage or the date your Declaration of Domestic Partnership is filed or the first day of the month following the date we receive your completed enrollment information.

Inform us of any changes

It is important that you inform us of any changes that might affect your benefit status. This will help us effectively deliver your benefits. Please contact us as soon as possible with changes such as:

- Change of address or phone number
- Change in marital status
- Change of covered dependent status
- A covered dependent who enrolls in any other dental plan

Late entrant rule

Except for the newborn coverage described above, the plan does not cover services and supplies given to a person age 5 or older if that person did not enroll in the plan during one of the following:

- The first 31 days the person is eligible for this coverage
- Any period of open enrollment agreed to by the policyholder and us

This does not apply to charges incurred for any of the following:

- After the person has been covered by the plan for 12 months
- As a result of **injuries** sustained while covered by the plan
- Diagnostic and preventive services such as exams, cleanings, fluoride, and images (orthodontia related services are not included)

Special times you and your dependents can join the plan

You can enroll in these situations:

- When you did not enroll in this plan before because:
 - You were covered by another group dental plan, and now that other coverage has ended
 - You had COBRA, and now that coverage has ended
- You have added a dependent because of marriage, birth, adoption or foster care. See the *Adding new dependents* section for more information
- When a court orders that you cover a current spouse, domestic partner, or a minor child on your dental plan

We must receive your completed enrollment information from you within 31 days of that date on which you no longer have the other coverage mentioned above.

Effective date of coverage

Your coverage will be in effect as of the date you become eligible for dental benefits.

Medical necessity requirements

The starting point for **covered benefits** under your plan is whether the services and supplies are **eligible dental services** and **medically necessary**. See the *Eligible dental services* and *Exclusions* sections plus the schedule of benefits.

This section addresses the **medical necessity** requirements.

Medically necessary/medical necessity

As we said in the *Let's get started!* section, **medical necessity** is a requirement for you to receive a **covered benefit** under this plan.

The **medical necessity** requirements are in the *Glossary* section, where we define "**medically necessary, medical necessity**".

What are your eligible dental services?

The information in this section is the first step to understanding your plan's **eligible dental services**. If you have questions about this section, see the *How to contact us for help* section.

Your plan covers many kinds of dental care services and supplies. But some are not covered at all or are covered only up to a limit.

You can find out about exceptions and exclusions in the:

- *Dental provider services* benefit below
- *What rules and limits apply to dental care?* section
- *What your plan doesn't cover - exclusions* section

Your dental plan

We explain how your dental plan works in the *Let's get started* section.

Schedule of benefits

Eligible dental services include dental services and supplies provided by a **specialty dentist**. Your schedule of benefits includes a detailed list of **eligible dental services** under your dental plan (including any maximums and limits that apply to them).

The following are not **eligible dental services** under your plan except as described in the *What rules and limits apply to dental care?* section of this booklet-certificate, the schedule of benefits, or a rider or amendment issued to you for use with this booklet-certificate:

- Acupuncture, acupressure and acupuncture therapy
- Asynchronous dental treatment
- Crowns, inlays and onlays, and veneers unless for one of the following:
 - It is treatment for decay or traumatic **injury** and teeth cannot be restored with a filling material
 - The tooth is an abutment to a covered partial denture or fixed bridge.
- Dental implants, false teeth, prosthetic restoration of dental implants, plates, dentures, braces, mouth guards, and other devices to protect, replace or reposition teeth and removal of implants
- Dental services and supplies made with high noble metals (gold or titanium) except as covered in the schedule of benefits
- Dentures, crowns, inlays, onlays, bridges, or other prosthetic appliances or services used for the purpose of splinting, to alter vertical dimension, to restore occlusion, or correcting attrition, abrasion, or erosion
- General anesthesia and intravenous sedation, unless specifically covered and done in connection with another **eligible dental service**
- Instruction for diet, tobacco counseling and oral hygiene
- Mail order and at-home kits for **orthodontic treatment**
- **Orthodontic treatment** except as covered in the schedule of benefits
- Prefabricated porcelain/ceramic crown – permanent tooth
- Services and supplies provided in connection with treatment or care that is not covered under the plan
- Replacement of a device or appliance that is lost, missing or stolen, and for the replacement of appliances that have been damaged due to abuse, misuse or neglect and for an extra set of dentures
- Replacement of teeth beyond the normal complement of 32
- Services and supplies provided where there is no evidence of pathology, dysfunction or disease, other than covered preventive services

- Space maintainers except when needed to preserve space resulting from the premature loss of deciduous teeth
- Surgical removal of impacted wisdom teeth when removed only for orthodontic reasons
- **Temporomandibular joint dysfunction/disorder (TMJ)**

Dental emergency services

Eligible dental services include **dental emergency services** provided for a **dental emergency**. The care provided must be a **covered benefit**.

If you have a **dental emergency**, you should consider using your **dental provider** who may be more familiar with your dental needs. However, you can get treatment from any **dentist**. If you need help in finding one, just call us.

What rules and limits apply to dental care?

Several rules apply to the dental benefits. Following these rules will help you use your plan to your advantage by avoiding expenses that are not covered by your plan.

Alternate treatment rule

Sometimes there are several ways to treat a dental problem, all of which provide acceptable results.

If a charge is made for a non-eligible dental service but an **eligible dental service** would have provided acceptable results, then your plan will pay a benefit for the **eligible dental service**.

If a charge is made for an **eligible dental service** but a different **eligible dental service** would have provided acceptable results and is less expensive, then your plan will pay a benefit based upon the least expensive **eligible dental service**.

You should review the differences in the cost of alternate treatment with your **specialty dentist**. Of course, you and your **specialty dentist** can still choose the more costly treatment method. You are responsible for any charges in excess of what your plan will cover.

Coverage for dental work begun before you are covered by the plan

Your plan does not cover dental work that began before you were covered by the plan. This means that the following dental work is not covered:

- An appliance, or modification of an appliance, if an impression for it was made before you were covered by the plan
- A crown, bridge, or cast or processed restoration, if a tooth was prepared for it before you were covered by the plan
- Root canal therapy, if the pulp chamber for it was opened before you were covered by the plan

Orthodontic treatment rule

Orthodontic treatment is covered on the date active **orthodontic treatment** begins.

The following are not considered **orthodontic treatment**:

- The installation of a space maintainer
- A surgical procedure to correct malocclusion

This benefit does not cover charges for the following:

- Interceptive **orthodontic treatment**
- Limited **orthodontic treatment**
- Replacement of broken appliances
- Re-treatment of orthodontic cases
- Changes in treatment necessitated by an accident
- Maxillofacial surgery
- Myofunctional therapy
- Treatment of cleft palate
- Treatment of micrognathia
- Treatment of macroglossia
- Lingually placed direct bonded appliances and arch wires (i.e. "invisible braces")

The plan will not cover the charges for an orthodontic procedure if an active appliance for that procedure was installed before you were covered by the plan.

Orthodontic limitation for late enrollees

The plan will not cover the charges for an orthodontic procedure for which an active appliance for that procedure has been installed within the 2 year period starting with the date you became covered by the plan. This limit applies only if you do not become enrolled in the plan within 31 days after you first become eligible.

Reimbursement policies

We reserve the right to apply our reimbursement policies to all services including involuntary services. Those policies may affect the **recognized charge**. These policies consider:

- The duration and complexity of a service
- When multiple procedures are billed at the same time, whether additional overhead is required
- Whether an assistant surgeon is necessary for the service
- If follow up care is included
- Whether other characteristics modify or make a particular service unique
- When a charge includes more than one claim line, whether any services described by a claim line are part of, or incidental to, the primary service provided
- The educational level, licensure or length of training of the **provider**

Aetna reimbursement policies are based on our review of:

- Generally accepted standards of dental practice
- The views of **providers** and **dentists** practicing in the relevant clinical areas

Replacement rule

Some **eligible dental services** are subject to your plan's replacement rule. The replacement rule applies to replacements of, or additions to existing:

- Crowns
- Inlays
- Onlays
- Implants
- Veneers
- Complete dentures
- Removable partial dentures
- Fixed partial dentures (bridges)
- Other prosthetic services

These **eligible dental services** are covered only when you give us proof that:

- While you were covered by the plan:
 - You had a tooth (or teeth) extracted after the existing denture, bridge or other prosthetic item was installed.
 - As a result, you need to replace or add teeth to your denture, bridge or other prosthetic item and:
 - The tooth that was removed was not an abutment to a removable or fixed partial denture, bridge or other prosthetic item installed during the prior 5 years.
 - Your present denture is an immediate temporary one that replaces that tooth (or teeth). A permanent denture is needed and the temporary denture cannot be used as a permanent denture. Replacement must occur within 12 months from the date that the temporary denture was installed.
- The present item cannot be made serviceable, and is:
 - A crown installed at least 5 years before its replacement.
 - An inlay, onlay, veneer, complete denture, removable partial denture, fixed partial denture (bridge), implant, or other prosthetic item installed at least 5 years before its replacement.

What your plan doesn't cover – exclusions

We already told you about the many dental care services and supplies that are eligible for coverage under your plan in the *What are your eligible dental services?* section. In that section we also told you that some dental care services and supplies have exceptions and some are not covered at all (exclusions).

In this section we tell you about the exclusions that apply to your plan.

And just a reminder, you'll find benefit and coverage limitations in the schedule of benefits.

Exclusions

The following are not **eligible dental services** under your plan except as described in:

- The *What are your eligible dental services?* section
- The *What rules and limits apply to dental care?* section
- The schedule of benefits
- A rider or amendment issued to you for use with this booklet-certificate

Charges for services or supplies

- Provided by a **provider** in excess of the **recognized charge**
- Provided for your personal comfort or convenience, or the convenience of any other person, including a **dental provider**
- Provided in connection with treatment or care that is not covered under the plan
- Cancelled or missed appointment charges or charges to complete claim forms
- Charges for which you have no legal obligation to pay
- Charges that would not be made if you did not have coverage, including:
 - Care in charitable institutions
 - Care for conditions related to current or previous military service
 - Care while in the custody of a governmental authority

Charges in excess of any benefit limits

Any charges in excess of the benefit, dollar, visit, or frequency limits stated in the schedule of benefits.

Cosmetic services and plastic surgery (except to the extent coverage is specifically provided in the schedule of benefits)

- **Cosmetic** services and supplies including:
 - Plastic surgery
 - Reconstructive surgery
 - **Cosmetic** surgery, except for care and treatment related to medically diagnosed congenital defects or birth anomalies of new born children
 - Personalization or characterization of dentures or other services and supplies which improve, alter or enhance appearance
 - Augmentation and vestibuloplasty and other services to protect, clean, whiten, bleach alter the appearance of teeth whether or not for psychological or emotional reasons

Facings on molar crowns and pontics will always be considered **cosmetic**

Court-ordered services and supplies

- This includes those court ordered services and supplies, or those required as a condition of parole, probation, release or because of any legal proceeding, unless they are an **eligible dental service** under this plan.

Examinations

Any dental examinations needed:

- Because a third party requires the exam. Examples include examinations to get or keep a job, or examinations required under a labor agreement or other contract.
- To buy insurance or to get or keep a license.
- To travel.
- To go to a school, camp, or sporting event, or to join in a sport or other recreational activity.

Experimental or investigational

- **Experimental or investigational** drugs, devices, treatments or procedures

Non-medically necessary services

Services, including but not limited to, those treatments, services, prescription drugs and supplies which are not **medically necessary** (as determined by **Aetna**) for the diagnosis and treatment of **illness, injury**, restoration of physiological functions, or covered preventive services. This applies even if they are prescribed, recommended or approved by your **physician** or **dentist**.

Other primary payer

- Payment for a portion of the charge that another party is responsible for as the primary payer

Outpatient prescription drugs, and preventive care drugs and supplements

- Prescribed drugs, pre-medication or analgesia

Personal care, comfort or convenience items

- Any service or supply primarily for your convenience and personal comfort or that of a third party

Providers and other health professionals

- Treatment by other than a **dentist**. However, the plan will cover some services provided by a licensed dental hygienist under the supervision and guidance of a **dentist**. These are:
 - Scaling of teeth
 - Cleaning of teeth
 - Topical application of fluoride.
- Charges submitted for services by an unlicensed **provider** or not within the scope of the **provider's** license.

Services provided by a family member

- Services provided by a spouse, civil union partner, domestic partner, parent, child, stepchild, brother, sister, in-law or any household member

Services received outside of the United States

- Non-dental emergency services received outside of the United States. They are not covered even if they are covered in the United States under this booklet-certificate.

Work related illness or injuries

- Coverage available to you under workers' compensation or under a similar program under local, state or federal law for any **illness** or **injury** related to employment or self-employment.
- A source of coverage or reimbursement will be considered available to you even if you waived your right to payment from that source. You may also be covered under a workers' compensation law or similar law.
- If you submit proof that you are not covered for a particular **illness** or **injury** under such law, then that **illness** or **injury** will be considered "not work related" regardless of cause.

Who provides the care

Just as the starting point for coverage under your plan is whether the services and supplies are **eligible dental services**, the foundation for getting covered care is the **dental provider**. This section tells you about **dental providers**.

Providers

When you need dental care, you can go to any **specialty dentist** to provide **eligible dental services** to you.

You will not have to submit claims for treatment received from **providers**. Your **provider** will take care of that for you. And we will pay the **provider** what the plan owes.

What the plan pays and what you pay

Who pays for your **eligible dental services** – this plan, both you and this plan, or just you? That depends. This section gives the general rule and explains these key terms:

- Your **coinsurance**

We also remind you that sometimes you will be responsible for paying the entire bill – for example, if you get care that is not an **eligible dental service**.

The general rule

When you get **eligible dental services**, the schedule of benefits lists how much you pay and how much your plan pays. The cost sharing may vary by the type of expense.

Important note – when you pay all

You pay the entire expense for an **eligible dental service** when you get a dental care service or supply that is not **medically necessary**. See the *Medical necessity requirements* section.

The **specialty dentist** may require you to pay the entire charge.

Special financial responsibility

You are responsible for the entire expense of:

- Cancelled or missed appointments

Neither you nor we are responsible for:

- Charges for which you have no legal obligation to pay
- Charges that would not be made if you did not have coverage

Where your schedule of benefits fits in

This section explains some of the terms you will find in your schedule of benefits.

How your coinsurance works

Your **coinsurance** is the amount you pay for **eligible dental services**. The schedule of benefits shows the **coinsurance** this plan will pay for specific **eligible dental services**. You are responsible for paying any remaining **coinsurance**.

Important note:

See the schedule of benefits for any **copayments, coinsurance, maximum and maximum age, visit limits, and other limitations** that may apply.

When you disagree - claim decisions

In the previous section, we explained how you and we share responsibility for paying for your **eligible dental services**.

When a claim comes in, we review it, make a decision and tell you how you and we will split the expense. We also explain what you can do if you think we got it wrong. See the schedule of benefits for any **copayments**, **coinsurance** and maximum age or visit limits that may apply

Claim procedures

Notice of claim and claim forms

Your **specialty dentist** is required to send us a claim in writing within 20 days after the date of service or as soon as reasonably possible after that. You may send us a claim, at your option. You can request a claim form from us. We will send you a claim form within 15 days. Once we receive the claim form, we will review that claim for payment to the **provider** or to you as appropriate.

Time of payment of claims

Upon satisfactory notice of claim, we will pay your claim promptly and within 30 calendar days after we receive your claim electronically or within 40 calendar days after we receive your claim by other means, if:

- The **specialty dentist** is eligible at the date of service
- You were covered on the date you received the dental care service
- The service or supply is covered under this policy
- The claim is submitted with all of the information requested by **Aetna** on the claim form or in the other instructions that were distributed in advance to you or the **specialty dentist** in accordance with New Jersey laws
- **Aetna** has no reason to believe the claim was submitted fraudulently

If all or a portion of the claim is not paid within 30 calendar days after we receive your claim electronically or within 40 calendar days after we receive your claim by other means because:

- The claim submission is incomplete due to missing information
- The diagnosis coding, procedure coding or any other required claim information is incorrect
- **Aetna** disputes the amount claimed
- There is strong evidence of fraud by the **dental provider** and **Aetna** has initiated an investigation into the suspected fraud

Aetna will notify the **specialty dentist**, by electronic means and you and **specialty dentist** in writing within 30 calendar days of receiving an electronic claim or within 40 days of receiving a claim submitted by other means, if:

- The claim is incomplete with a statement as to what information is missing and necessary to process the claim
- The claim contains incorrect information with a statement as to what information must be corrected in order to process the claim
- **Aetna** disputes the amount claimed in whole or in part with a statement as to the basis of that dispute
- **Aetna** finds there is strong evidence of fraud and has initiated an investigation into the suspected fraud in accordance with **Aetna's** fraud prevention plan, or referred the claim, together with supporting documentation, to the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor in the Department of Law and Public Safety

If all or a portion of an electronically submitted claim cannot be processed because the diagnosis coding, procedure coding or any other data required to be submitted with the claim was missing, **Aetna** will electronically notify the **specialty dentist** within 7 days of the status and request any information required to process the claim.

Aetna will acknowledge receipt of a claim submitted by electronic means from a **specialty dentist** no later than 2 working days following receipt of the transmission of the claim and no later than 15 working days following receipt of a claim received by written notice. The acknowledgement will include the date **Aetna** received the claim and will go to the entity from which **Aetna** received the claim.

If **Aetna** has reason to believe that a claim has been submitted fraudulently, it will investigate the claim in accordance with its fraud prevention plan, or refer the claim, together with supporting documentation, to the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

Payment of an eligible claim pursuant to the paragraphs above will be deemed to be overdue if not remitted to you or covered **dependent** by **Aetna** on or before the 30th calendar day following receipt by Aetna of a claim submitted by electronic means and on or before the 40th calendar day following receipt of a claim submitted by other than electronic means.

If payment is withheld on all or a portion of a claim by **Aetna** pursuant to the paragraphs above, the claims payment shall be overdue if not remitted to you or covered **dependent** by **Aetna** on or before the 30th calendar day for claims submitted by electronic means and the 40th calendar day for claims submitted by other than electronic means, following receipt by **Aetna** of the required documentation or information or modification of an initial submission.

If payment is withheld on all or a portion of a claim by **Aetna** and you or covered **dependent** and the **specialty dentist** are not notified within the time frames provided for in those paragraphs, the claim will be deemed to be overdue.

Any overdue payment will bear simple interest at the rate of 12% per annum. **Aetna** will pay the interest to the **specialty dentist** at the time the overdue payment is made. The amount of interest paid to a **specialty dentist** for an overdue claim will be credited to any civil penalty for late payment of the claim levied by the Department of Human Services against a payer that does not reserve the right to change the **premium**.

Payment of claims

All benefits are payable to you. However, we have the right to pay any dental benefits to a **dental provider**. This will be done unless you have told us otherwise by the time you file the claim.

Any unpaid balance will be paid within 30 days of receipt by us of the due written proof. When a claim is paid, any **premium** due and unpaid may be deducted from the claim payment.

When a **specialty dentist** provides care to you or a covered **dependent**, they will submit the claim for you.

Provider reimbursement

No assignment or transfer by you of any of your interest under this policy or by a covered **dependent** is valid unless **Aetna** consents to it.

When you or your covered **dependent** submit a claim and assign the right to receive reimbursement for **eligible expenses** to a **specialty dentist**, we are required to pay benefits in line with the assignment of benefits by remitting payment directly to the **specialty dentist**, or in the alternative, to the **specialty dentist** and you or your covered **dependent** as a joint payee, with signature lines for each of you.

Any payment made solely to you or your covered **dependent** rather than the **specialty dentist** under these circumstance will be considered unpaid, and unless remitted to the **specialty dentist** within the time frames established by New Jersey Law, will be considered overdue and subject to an interest charge as provided in that act.

Adverse benefit determinations

We pay many **provider** claims at the **recognized charge** except for your share of the costs. But sometimes we pay only some of the claim. And sometimes we don't pay at all. Any time we don't pay even part of the claim, that is called an "adverse benefit determination" or "adverse decision".

If we make an adverse benefit determination, we will tell you in writing.

A complaint

You may not be happy about a **dental provider** or an operational issue, and you may want to complain. You can call or write us. Your complaint should include a description of the issue. You should include copies of any records or documents that you think are important. We will review the information and provide you with a written response within 30 calendar days of receiving the complaint. We will let you know if we need more information to make a decision.

Recordkeeping

We will keep the records of all complaints for at least 10 years.

Fees and expenses

We do not pay any fees or expenses incurred by you when you submit a complaint.

Coordination of benefits

Some people have dental coverage under more than one plan. If you do, we will work together with your other plans to decide how much each plan pays. This is called coordination of benefits (COB).

Key terms

Here are some key terms we use in this section. These terms will help you understand this COB section.

Allowable expense means:

- A dental care expense that any of your dental plans cover to any degree. If the dental care service is not covered by any of the plans, it is not an allowable expense. For example, **cosmetic** surgery generally is not an allowable expense under this plan.

Claim determination period means:

- A **Calendar Year**, or any part of a **Calendar Year**, during which you and your dependents are covered by this plan and at least one other plan and incurs allowable expenses under these plans.

“Plan” means:

- Coverage with which coordination of benefits is allowed. Plan includes:
 - A dental insurance plan
 - Group insurance and group subscriber contracts, including insurance continued according to a federal or state continuation law
 - Self-funded arrangements of group or group-type coverage, including insurance continued according to a federal or state continuation law
 - Group or group-type coverage through a health maintenance organization (HMO) or other prepayment, group practice and individual practice plans, including insurance continued according to a federal or state continuation law
 - Group hospital indemnity benefit amounts that exceed \$150.00 per day
 - **Medicare** or other governmental benefits, except when, according to law, the benefits must be treated as in excess of those of any private insurance plan or non-governmental plan
- “Plan” does not include:
 - Individual or family insurance contracts or subscriber contracts
 - Individual or family coverage through a health maintenance organization (HMO) or under any other prepayment, group practice and individual practice plans
 - Group or group-type coverage where the cost of coverage is paid solely by the covered person coverage being continued according to a federal or state continuation law will be considered a plan
 - Group hospital indemnity benefit amounts of \$150.00 per day or less
 - School accident-type coverage
 - A state plan under Medicaid

Primary plan means:

- A plan whose benefits for your health care coverage must be determined without taking into consideration the existence of any other plan. There may be more than one primary plan. A plan will be the primary plan if either of the below exist:
 - The plan has no order of benefit determination rules, or it has rules that differ from those contained in this coordination of benefits section
 - All plans which cover you use order of benefit determination rules consistent with those contained in the coordination of benefits section and under those rules, the plan determines its benefits first.

Here's how COB works

- The primary plan pays first. When this is the primary plan, we will pay your claims first as if the other plan does not exist.
- The secondary plan pays after the primary plan. When this is the secondary plan, we will pay benefits after the primary plan and will reduce the payment based on any amount the primary plan paid.
- We will never pay an amount that, when combined with payments from your other coverage, add up to more than 100% of the allowable expenses.

Determining who pays

Reading from top to bottom the first rule that applies will determine which plan is primary and which is secondary.

A plan that does not contain a COB provision is always the primary plan.

If you are:	Primary plan	Secondary plan
Covered under the plan as an employee, retired employee or dependent	The plan covering you as an employee or retired employee	The plan covering you as a dependent You cannot be covered as an employee and dependent
COB rules for dependent children		
Child of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents who are married or living together 	The “birthday rule” applies The plan of the parent whose birthday* (month and day only) falls earlier in the Calendar Year *Same birthdays-the plan that has covered a parent longer is primary	The plan of the parent born later in the year (month and day only)* *Same birthdays-the plan that has covered a parent longer is primary
Child of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents separated or divorced or not living together With court-order 	The plan of the parent whom the court said is responsible for dental coverage But if that parent has no coverage then their spouse’s plan is primary	The plan of the other parent But if that parent has no coverage, then their spouse’s plan is primary
Child of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents separated or divorced or not living together – court-order states both parents are responsible for coverage or have joint custody 	Primary and secondary coverage is based on the birthday rule	
Child of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents separated or divorced or not living together and there is no court-order 	The order of benefit payments is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan of the custodial parent pays first The plan of the spouse of the custodial parent (if any) pays second The plan of the noncustodial parents pays next The plan of the spouse of the noncustodial parent (if any) pays last 	
Child covered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual who is not a parent (i.e. stepparent or grandparent) 	Treat the person the same as a parent when making the order of benefits determination: See <i>Child of</i> content above	

Active or inactive employee	The plan covering you as an active employee (or as a dependent of an active employee) is primary to a plan covering you as a laid off or retired employee (or as a dependent of a former employee)	A plan that covers the person as a laid off or retired employee (or as a dependent of a former employee) is secondary to a plan that covers the person as an active employee (or as a dependent of an active employee)
COBRA or state continuation	The plan covering you as an employee or retiree or the dependent of an employee or retiree is primary to COBRA or state continuation coverage	COBRA or state continuation coverage is secondary to the plan that covers the person as an employee or retiree or the dependent of an employee or retiree
Longer or shorter length of coverage	If none of the above rules determine the order of payment, the plan that has covered the person longer is primary	
Other rules do not apply	If none of the above rules apply, the plans share expenses equally	

How are benefits paid?	
Primary plan	The primary plan pays your claims as if there is no other dental plan involved
Secondary plan	<p>The secondary plan calculates payment as if the primary plan did not exist, and then applies that amount to any allowable expenses under the secondary plan that were not covered by the primary plan.</p> <p>The secondary plan will reduce payments so the total payments do not exceed 100% of the total allowable expense</p>
Benefit reserve each family member has a separate benefit reserve for each Calendar Year	<p>The benefit reserve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is made up of the amount that the secondary plan saved due to COB • Is used to cover any unpaid allowable expenses • Balance is erased at the end of each year

Other dental coverage updates – contact information

You should contact us if you have any changes to your other coverage. We want to be sure our records are accurate so your claims are processed correctly.

Right to receive and release needed information

We have the right to release or obtain any information we need for COB purposes. That includes information we need to recover any payments from your other dental plans.

Right to pay another carrier

Sometimes another plan pays something we would have paid under your plan. When that happens, we will pay your plan benefit to the other plan.

Right of recovery

If we pay more than we should have under the COB rules, we may recover the excess from:

- Any person we paid or for whom we paid
- Any other plan that is responsible under these COB rules

When coverage ends

Coverage can end for a number of reasons. This section tells you how and why coverage ends and when coverage may still be continued.

When will your coverage end?

Coverage under this plan will end if:

- This plan is no longer available
- You voluntarily stop your coverage
- The **group policy** ends
- You are no longer eligible for coverage
- Your employment ends
- You do not pay any required **premium** contribution
- We end your coverage
- You become covered under another dental plan offered by your policyholder

Your coverage will end on either the date your employment ends or the day before the first **premium** contribution due date that occurs after you stop active work.

When coverage may continue under the plan

Your coverage under this plan will continue if:

<p>Your employment ends because of illness, injury, sabbatical or other authorized leave as agreed to by the policyholder and us.</p>	<p>If premium payments are made for you, you may be able to continue coverage under the plan as long as the policyholder and we agree to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage may continue, until stopped by the policyholder, but not beyond 30 months from the start of your absence.
<p>Your employment ends because of a temporary lay-off, temporary leave of absence, sabbatical, or other authorized leave as agreed to by the policyholder and us.</p>	<p>If premium payments are made for you, you may be able to continue coverage under the plan as long as the policyholder and we agree to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage will stop on the date that your employment ends.
<p>Your employment ends because either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your job has been eliminated You have been placed on severance This plan allows former employees to continue their coverage 	<p>You may be able to continue coverage. See the <i>Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends</i> section.</p>
<p>Your employment ends because of a paid or unpaid medical leave of absence</p>	<p>If premium payments are made for you, you may be able to continue coverage under the plan as long as the policyholder and we agree to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage may continue until stopped by the policyholder but not beyond 30 months from the start of the absence.
<p>Your employment ends because of a leave of absence that is not a medical leave of absence</p>	<p>If premium payments are made for you, you may be able to continue coverage under the plan as long as the policyholder and we agree to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage may continue until stopped by the policyholder but not beyond 1 month from the start of the absence.
<p>Your employment ends because of a military leave of absence.</p>	<p>If premium payments are made for you, you may be able to continue coverage under the plan as long as the policyholder and we agree to do so and as described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your coverage may continue until stopped by the policyholder but not beyond 24 months from the start of the absence.

Notification of when your employment ends

It is the policyholder's responsibility to let us know when your employment ends. The limits above may be extended only if we and the policyholder agree in writing to extend them.

When will coverage end for any dependents?

Coverage for your dependent will end if:

- Your dependent is no longer eligible for coverage
- The **group policy** ends
- You do not make the required **premium** contribution toward the cost of dependents' coverage
- Your coverage ends for any of the reasons listed above

In addition, coverage for your domestic partner will end on the earlier of:

- The date this plan no longer allows coverage for domestic partners
- The date the domestic partnership. For domestic partnerships, you should provide the policyholder a completed and signed Declaration of Termination of Domestic Partnership.

Your dependents coverage will end on the earlier of the date the **group policy** terminates or as defined by the policyholder.

Why would we end your coverage?

When we give notice of termination, the notice will tell you about your rights. Please refer to the *When you disagree-claim decisions* procedures section.

We will give you 30 days advance written notice before we end your coverage because you commit fraud or intentionally misrepresent yourself when you applied for or obtained coverage. You can refer to the *General provisions – other things you should know* section for more information on loss of coverage.

On the date your coverage ends, we will refund to the policyholder any prepayments for periods after the date your coverage ended.

Special coverage options after your plan coverage ends

This section explains options you may have after your coverage ends under this plan. Your individual situation will determine what options you will have.

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA)

The federal COBRA law usually applies to employers of group sizes of 20 or more. It gives employees and most of their covered dependents the right to keep their dental coverage for 18, 29 or 36 months after a qualifying event. The qualifying event is something that happens that results in you losing your coverage.

The qualifying events are:

- Your active employment ends for reasons other than gross misconduct
- Your working hours are reduced
- You divorce or legally separate and are no longer responsible for dependent coverage
- You become entitled to benefits under Medicare
- Your covered dependent children no longer qualify as dependents under the plan
- You die
- You are a retiree eligible for retiree health coverage and your former employer files for bankruptcy

Talk with your employer if you have questions about COBRA or to enroll.

Continuation of coverage for other reasons

What exceptions are there for dental work when coverage ends?

Your dental coverage may end while you or your covered dependent are in the middle of treatment. The plan does not cover dental services that are given after your coverage terminates. There is an exception. The plan will cover the following services if they are ordered while you were covered by the plan, and installed within 30 days after your coverage ends:

- Inlays
- Onlays
- Crowns
- Removable bridges
- Cast or processed restorations
- Dentures
- Fixed partial dentures (bridges)
- Root canals

Ordered means:

- For a denture: The impressions from which the denture will be made were taken
- For a root canal: The pulp chamber was opened
- For any other item: The teeth which will serve as retainers or supports, or the teeth which are being restored:
 - Must have been fully prepared to receive the item
 - Impressions have been taken from which the item will be prepared

How you can extend coverage if you are totally disabled when coverage ends

Your coverage may be extended if you are totally disabled when coverage ends and you have been continuously insured for the 3 months prior to coverage ending.

You are “totally disabled” if you cannot work at your occupation or any other occupation for pay or profit.

Your dependent is “totally disabled” if that person cannot engage in most normal activities of a healthy person of the same age and gender.

You may extend coverage until the earliest of:

- When you or your dependents are no longer totally disabled
- When you become covered by another health benefits plan

How can you extend coverage for your disabled child beyond the plan age limits?

You have the right to extend dental coverage for your dependent child beyond the plan age limits. If your disabled child:

- Is not able to be self-supporting because of intellectual disability or physical handicap
- Depends mainly (more than 50% of income) on you for support

The right to coverage will continue only as long as a **physician** certifies that your child still is disabled.

We may ask you to send us proof of the disability within 31 days of the date coverage would have ended. Before we extend coverage, we may ask that your child get a physical exam. We will pay for that exam.

We may ask you to send proof that your child is disabled after coverage is extended. We won't ask for this proof more than once a year. You must send it to us within 31 days of our request. If you don't, we can terminate coverage for your dependent child.

Your disabled child's coverage will end on the earlier of:

- The date the child is no longer disabled and dependent upon you for support
- As explained in the *When will coverage end for any dependents* section

How can you extend coverage for a child in college on medical leave?

You have the right to extend coverage for your dependent college student who takes a **medically necessary** leave of absence from school. The right to coverage will be extended until the earlier of:

- One year after the leave of absence begins
- The date coverage would otherwise end

To extend coverage the leave of absence must:

- Begin while the dependent child is suffering from a serious **illness or injury**
- Cause the dependent child to lose status as a full-time student under the plan
- Be certified by the treating **physician** as **medically necessary** due to a serious **illness or injury**

We must receive documentation or certification of the **medical necessity** for a leave of absence either:

- At least 30 days prior to the absence, if the medical reason for the absence and the absence are foreseeable
- 30 days after the start date of the medical leave of absence from school

The **physician** treating your child will be asked to keep us informed of any changes.

General provisions – other things you should know

Administrative provisions

How you and we will interpret this booklet-certificate

We prepared this booklet-certificate according to ERISA, and according to other federal and state laws that apply. You and we will interpret it according to these laws. Also, you are bound by our interpretation of this booklet-certificate when we administer your coverage, so long as we use reasonable discretion.

How we administer this plan

We apply policies and procedures we've developed to administer this plan. You can review a copy of these policies and procedures at <https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins/dental-clinical-policy-bulletins.html>.

Who's responsible to you

We are responsible to you for what our employees and other agents do.

We are not responsible for what is done by your **providers**. They are not our employees or agents.

Coverage and services

Your coverage can change

Your coverage is defined by the **group policy**. This document may have amendments and riders too. Under certain circumstances, we or the policyholder or the law may change your plan. When an emergency or epidemic is declared, we may modify or waive requirements under the plan or your cost share if you are affected. Only we may waive a requirement of your plan. No other person, including the policyholder or **provider**, can do this.

Financial sanctions exclusions

If coverage provided under this booklet-certificate violates or will violate any economic or trade sanctions, the coverage will be invalid immediately. For example, we cannot pay for **eligible dental services** if it violates a financial sanction regulation. This includes sanctions related to a person or a country under sanction by the United States, unless it is allowed under a written license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). You can find out more by visiting <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/default.aspx>.

Legal action

You cannot take any action until 60 days after we receive written submission of claim.

No legal action can be brought to recover payment under any benefit after 3 years from the deadline for filing claims.

Physical examinations and evaluations

At our expense, we have the right to have a **provider** of our choice examine you. This will be done at all reasonable times while a claim for benefits is pending or under review.

Records of expenses

You should keep complete records of your expenses. They may be needed for a claim.

Things that would be important to keep are:

- Names of **dental providers, dentists** and other **providers** who provide services
- Dates expenses are incurred
- Copies of all bills and receipts

Honest mistakes and intentional deception

Honest mistakes

You or the policyholder may make an honest mistake when facts are shared with us. When we learn of the mistake, we may make a fair change in **premium** contribution or in your coverage. If we do, we will tell you what the mistake was. We won't make a change if the mistake happened more than 2 years before we learned of it.

Intentional deception

If we learn that you defrauded us or you intentionally misrepresented material facts, we can take actions that can have serious consequences for your coverage. These serious consequences include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of coverage, starting at some time in the past. If we paid claims for your past coverage, we will want the money back.
- Loss of coverage going forward.
- Denial of benefits.
- Recovery of amounts we already paid.

We also may report fraud to criminal authorities.

Some other money issues

Assignment of benefits

When you see a **provider** they will bill us directly. We may choose to pay you or to pay the **provider** directly. Unless we have agreed to do so and to the extent allowed by law, we will not accept an assignment to a **provider** under this **group policy**. This may include:

- The benefits due
- The right to receive payments
- Any claim you make for damages resulting from a breach, or alleged breach, of the terms of this **group policy**

To request assignment you must complete an assignment form. The assignment form is available from the policyholder. The completed form must be sent to us for consent.

Recovery of overpayments

We sometimes pay too much for **eligible dental services** or pay for something that this plan doesn't cover. If we do, we can require the person we paid – you or your **provider** – to return what we paid. If we don't do that we have the right to reduce any future benefit payments by the amount we paid by mistake.

Premium contribution

This plan requires the policyholder to make **premium** contribution payments. If payments are made through a payroll deduction with the policyholder, the policyholder will forward your payment to us. We will not pay benefits under this booklet-certificate if **premium** contributions are not made.

Payment of premiums

The first **premium contribution** for this policy is due on or before your **effective date of coverage**. The next **premium** payment will be due the 1st of each month (“**premium due date**”). Each **premium** payment is to be paid to us on or before the **premium due date**.

Your dental information

We will protect your dental information. We will only use or share it with others as needed for your care and treatment. We will also use and share it to help us process your **providers’** claims and manage your plan.

You can get a free copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. Just call us. When you accept coverage under this plan, you agree to let your **providers** share your information with us.

Effect of prior plan coverage

If you are in a continuation period from a prior plan at the time you join this plan you may not receive the full benefit paid under this plan. Your current and prior plan must be offered through the same policyholder.

Glossary

Aetna®

Aetna Life Insurance Company, an affiliate, or a third party vendor under contract with **Aetna**.

Calendar year

A period of 12 months beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st.

Coinsurance

Coinsurance is the percentage of the bill that you and this plan have to pay for an **eligible dental service**. The schedule of benefits shows the percentage that this plan pays.

Copay, copayments

The specific dollar amount you have to pay for **eligible dental services**. **Copayments** may be changed by **Aetna** upon 30 days written notice to the contract holder.

Cosmetic

Services, drugs or supplies that are primarily intended to alter, improve or enhance your appearance.

Covered benefits

Eligible dental services that meet the requirements for coverage under the terms of this plan.

Dental emergency

Any dental condition that:

- Occurs unexpectedly
- Requires immediate diagnosis and treatment in order to stabilize the condition
- Is characterized by symptoms such as severe pain and bleeding

Dental emergency services

Services and supplies given by a **dental provider** to treat a **dental emergency**.

Dental provider

Any individual legally qualified to provide dental services or supplies.

Dentist

A legally qualified **dentist** licensed to do the dental work he or she performs.

Effective date of coverage

The date your coverage begins under this booklet-certificate as noted in our records.

Eligible dental services

The benefits, subject to varying cost shares, covered in this plan. These are:

- Listed and described in the schedule of benefits.
- Not listed as an exception or exclusion in these sections:
 - *What are your eligible dental services?*
 - *What rules and limits apply to dental care?*
 - *What your plan doesn't cover -- exclusions.*
- Not beyond any maximums and limitations in the *What rules and limits apply to dental care?* section and the schedule of benefits.
- **Medically necessary.** See the *Medical necessity requirements* section and the *Glossary* section for more information.

Experimental or investigational

A drug, device, procedure, or treatment that we find is **experimental or investigational** because:

- There is not enough outcome data available from controlled clinical trials published in the peer-reviewed literature to validate its safety and effectiveness for the **illness or injury** involved.
- The needed approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not been given for marketing.
- A national medical or dental society or regulatory agency has stated in writing that it is **experimental or investigational** or suitable mainly for research purposes.
- It is the subject of a Phase I, Phase II or the experimental or research arm of a Phase III clinical trial. These terms have the meanings given by regulations and other official actions and publications of the FDA and Department of Health and Human Services.
- Written protocols or a written consent form used by a facility **provider** state that it is **experimental or investigational**.

It is provided or performed in a special setting for research purposes.

Group policy

The **group policy** consists of several documents taken together. These documents are:

- The group application
- The **group policy**
- The booklet-certificates
- The schedule of benefits
- Any amendments or riders to the **group policy**, the booklet-certificate, and the schedule of benefits

Health professional

A person who is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by law to provide medical or dental care services to the public. For example, **providers** and dental assistants.

Illness

Poor health resulting from disease of the teeth or gums.

Injury or injuries

Physical damage done to the teeth or gums.

Medically necessary/medical necessity

Dental care services or supplies that prevent, evaluate, diagnose or treat an **illness, injury**, disease or its symptoms, and that are all of the following, as determined by us within our discretion:

- In accordance with generally accepted standards of dental practice
- Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration, and considered effective for your **illness, injury** or disease
- Not primarily for your convenience, the convenience of your **dentist**, or other health care **provider**
- Not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of your **illness, injury** or disease

Generally accepted standards of dental practice means:

- Standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed dental literature generally recognized by the relevant dental community
- Following the standards set forth in our clinical policies and applying clinical judgment

Important note:

We develop and maintain clinical policy bulletins that describe the generally accepted standards of dental practice, credible scientific evidence, and prevailing clinical guidelines that support our decisions regarding specific services. We use these bulletins and other resources to help guide individualized coverage decisions under our plans and to determine whether an intervention is **experimental or investigational**. They are subject to change. You can find these bulletins and other information at <https://www.aetna.com/health-care-professionals/clinical-policy-bulletins.html>. You can also contact us. See the *How to contact us for help* section.

Medicare

As used in this plan, **Medicare** means the health insurance provided by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended. It includes Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) or similar coverage that is an authorized alternative to Parts A and B of **Medicare**.

Orthodontic treatment

This is any:

- Medical service or supply
- Dental service or supply

furnished to prevent or to diagnose or to correct a misalignment:

- Of the teeth
- Of the bite
- Of the jaws or jaw joint relationship

whether or not for the purpose of relieving pain.

Physician

A skilled **health professional** trained and licensed to practice medicine under the laws of the state where they practice, specifically, doctors of medicine or osteopathy.

Premium

The amount the **policyholder** is required to pay to **Aetna** to continue coverage.

Premium contribution

The amount you contribute to the premium which is paid by the policyholder to **Aetna**.

Provider

A **dentist**, or other entity or person licensed, or certified under applicable state and federal law to provide dental care services to you.

Recognized charge

The amount of a **provider's** charge that is eligible for coverage. You are responsible for all amounts above what is eligible for coverage. The **recognized charge** may be less than the **provider's** full charge.

The **recognized charge** depends upon the geographic area where you receive the **eligible dental service**. The table below shows the method for calculating the **recognized charge** for specific services or supplies:

Service or supply	Recognized charge
Eligible dental expenses	80% of the prevailing charge rate
Important note: If the provider bills less than the amount calculated using the method above, the recognized charge is what the provider bills.	

Recognized charge does not apply to involuntary services.

Special terms used:

- Geographic area is normally based on the first three digits of the U.S. Postal Service zip codes. If we determine we need more data for a particular service or supply, we may base rates on a wider geographic area such as an entire state.
- Involuntary services are **eligible dental services** that are **dental emergency services**.
- Prevailing charge rate is the percentile value reported in a database prepared by FAIR Health, a nonprofit company. FAIR Health changes these rates periodically. We update our systems with these changes within 180 days after receiving them from FAIR Health. If the FAIR Health database becomes unavailable, we have the right to substitute a different database that we believe is comparable.

Get the most value out of your benefits:

We have online tools to help you decide the type of care to get and where. Our self-service website offers tools to help you determine the cost of **eligible dental services**. See the *How to contact us for help* section for the website.

Specialty dentist

This is a **dental provider** who practices in any generally accepted dental or surgical sub-specialty.

Temporomandibular joint dysfunction/disorder (TMJ)

This is:

- A **TMJ** or any similar disorder of the jaw joint
- A myofascial pain dysfunction (MPD) of the jaw

Any similar disorder in the relationship between the jaw joint and the related muscles and nerves