

# Delta Dental adds coverage for dental implants

Delta Dental is adding coverage for endosteal dental implants to our standard benefits effective May 1, 2007. Endosteal implants will be covered at the same level as other prosthodontic services and will apply to the annual plan maximum.

A dental implant is a small device that is used to replace a missing tooth. An endosteal implant is surgically placed in the upper or lower jaw, where it will fuse to the jawbone in three to six months. A crown is then attached to a post that extends from the implant above the gum line. The finished implant looks and feels like a natural tooth.

The addition of dental implant coverage offers enrollees a choice of procedures for tooth replacement. For example, enrollees may have the option of choosing between a conventional fixed bridge or an implant to replace a single missing tooth.

Any licensed dentist can perform the entire implant procedure. However, a general dentist may refer patients to a specialist (usually an oral surgeon or a periodontist) for the implant surgery, and the general dentist would place the final crown or other restoration.

Not everyone is an ideal candidate for implants. The patient should be in good general and oral health, have adequate bone density in the jaw to support the implant, and be free of periodontal disease. If the proposed implant site must be repaired to improve bone quality and quantity or correct a deformity, Delta Dental will not cover these services. However, we will cover the implant that follows.

Your dentist can provide you with the best possible treatment options based on your health and history.

