



# Oral Health and Pregnancy

Help Spread the Word!

## Dental Coverage for Low-Income Pregnant Women in Virginia

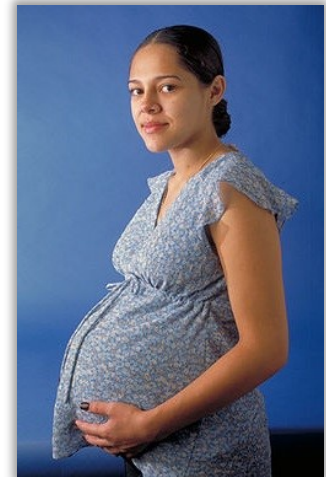
Pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid and FAMIS have comprehensive dental coverage. Pregnant women (over 21 for Medicaid and over 19 for FAMIS) can receive comprehensive dental benefits.

Covered dental services include:

- Preventive
  - Diagnostic
  - Restorative
  - Endodontics
  - Periodontal treatment
  - Dentures.
- (Orthodontics are not a covered service.)*

For more information:

- VaOHC website: [www.vaoralhealth.org](http://www.vaoralhealth.org)
- DMAS website: [http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/Content\\_pgs/SPL.aspx](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/Content_pgs/SPL.aspx)
- DentaQuest website: [www.dentaquest.com](http://www.dentaquest.com) or call 1.888.912.3456



### Resources for You, Your Practice or Your Patients

Are you a **dental provider** interested in learning more about treating pregnant women? Or, are you a **medical provider** interested in understanding the importance of dental care for your practice or for your patients? The Virginia Oral Health Coalition can provide clinical trainings and/or resources for you or your practice. Contact Quan Williams at 804.424.2484 or [qwilliams@vaoralhealth.org](mailto:qwilliams@vaoralhealth.org).

## Oral Health Care During Pregnancy Leads to Healthier Moms and Babies



- The American Dental Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists agree that routine dental care is safe for pregnant women and an important part of a healthy pregnancy.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Approximately 25% of all pregnant women have periodontal disease.<sup>3</sup> Managing periodontal disease requires comprehensive treatment procedures such as scaling and root planing in addition to preventive care.
- Pregnant women with periodontal disease may be up to eight times more likely to deliver prematurely.<sup>4</sup>
- Providing dental care during pregnancy reduces the bacteria in a mother's mouth, which significantly lowers her risk of spreading decay-causing bacteria to her baby.<sup>5</sup>

For free, downloadable patient resources, visit

<http://mchoralhealth.org/>

Online Educational Videos

[www.vaoralhealth.org](http://www.vaoralhealth.org)

#### Citations:

1. American Dental Association. Mouth Healthy Pregnancy Slideshow, "What to Expect for Your Oral Health." Retrieved from <http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/pregnancy-slideshow>.
2. Oral health care during pregnancy and through the lifespan. Committee Opinion No. 569. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2013;122:417-22.
3. Lief S, Boggess KA, Murtha AP, Jared H, Madianos PN, Moss K, et al. The oral conditions and pregnancy study: periodontal status of a cohort of pregnant women. J Periodontol 2004;75:116-26.
4. Jeffcoat M, Parry S, Sammel M, Clothier B, Catlin A, Macones G. Periodontal infection and preterm birth: successful periodontal therapy reduces the risk of preterm birth. BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, 2011; 118 (2): 250.
5. Ramos-Gomez FJ, Weintraub JA, Gansky SA, Hoover CI, Featherstone JD. Bacterial, behavioral and environmental factors associated with early childhood caries. J Clin Pediatr Dent 2002;26(2):165-73.

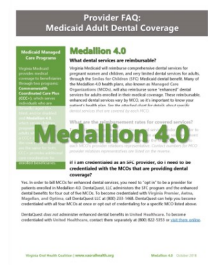


# Medicaid Dental Benefits

## Adult Dental Coverage in Virginia Medicaid

Virginia Medicaid will reimburse comprehensive dental services for pregnant women and children, and very limited dental services for adults, through the **Smiles for Children (SFC)** Medicaid dental benefit. Many of the CCC Plus and Medallion 4.0 Medicaid health plans, also known as **Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)**, will also reimburse some “enhanced” dental services for adults enrolled in their medical coverage. These reimbursable, enhanced dental services vary by MCO, so it’s important to know your patient’s health plan.

**\* New Resource \***  
**Provider FAQ:**  
**Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage**  
**CCC Plus and Medallion 4.0**



Visit the VaOHC website at [www.vaoralhealth.org](http://www.vaoralhealth.org) or contact Samantha Dorr at [sdorr@vaoralhealth.org](mailto:sdorr@vaoralhealth.org) for a copy of our *Provider FAQ* about billing, reimbursement, and covered dental services in CCC Plus and Medallion 4.0.

## Comprehensive Dental Coverage for All Adults

Virginia Medicaid does not currently include a comprehensive dental benefit for adults; providing this benefit will help the Commonwealth realize cost savings related to reduced emergency department (ED) use, chronic disease management, and a reduction in opioid prescribing.

### An adult dental benefit in Medicaid will improve health and save money by:

- Reducing avoidable emergency department visits**  
 Virginia spent \$3.31 million on 12,617 visits to the ED for dental related pain and infection - no treatment is provided in the ED; if these adults had a dental benefit they could seek care and treatment in an appropriate dental setting.
- Improving overall health**  
 54% of older adults cited dental care as their second-most frequent unmet need.
- Improving chronic disease outcomes and saving money**  
 A recent study showed one Virginia skilled nursing center saved \$1.93 million dollars in 13 months through tooth brushing, which prevented costly and dangerous pneumonia.
- Reducing opioid prescribing in the emergency department**  
 56% of the Medicaid beneficiaries who visited the ED for dental issues filled an opioid prescription within 30 days at a cost to Medicaid of \$121,269.