

Ontario Disability Support Program - Income Support Directives

9.7 - Dental Benefits

Summary of Legislation

An ODSP recipient and their spouse 18 years of age or older can receive coverage for dental services provided they meet the criteria and income support is being paid on their behalf.

Legislative Authority

[Section 44\(1\)1.ii.1 of the ODSP Regulation](#)

Summary of Directive

Who is Eligible for ODSP Dental Benefits?

ODSP recipients and their spouse 18 years of age or older are eligible for dental benefits.

A dental card is provided monthly to the recipient and includes the names of eligible members of the benefit unit.

Who is Not Eligible for ODSP Dental Benefits?

Dependent adults, children 17 or younger and spouses 17 or younger are not eligible for ODSP dental benefits.

Dependent adults may receive dental services as a discretionary benefit through Ontario Works. In most cases, coverage is for emergency dental care or dentures.

Children 17 or younger are eligible for dental benefits through the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The spouse of an ODSP recipient who is 17 or younger will also receive dental benefits from the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program.

Information about Healthy Smiles Ontario is available at:

<http://www.ontario.ca/healthysmiles>.

ODSP Recipients Living in Residences Providing Specialized Care (listed in s. 32(2) of the ODSP General Regulation)

If the dental services the person requires are provided by the institution, they are not eligible for ODSP coverage for those services. However, if there are services in the MCSS dental schedule that are not covered by the institution or by any other source, the ODSP recipient or spouse 18 years of age or older would be eligible for ODSP coverage for those services.

The same principle applies for the services in the MCSS dental hygiene schedule.

MCSS Dental Schedules

The MCSS Schedule of Dental Services and Fees and the MCSS Schedule of Dental Hygienist Services and Fees outline the services, fees and plan limitations covered under the MCSS dental benefit.

The MCSS schedules are available to ODSP staff, dentists and dental hygienists, municipal Ontario Works Administrators, Regional Directors and to clients on request.

Clients can also ask their dentist/dental hygienist about the services available under the schedule and any limitations with respect to the services they may require.

Intent of Policy

To ensure that dental benefits are provided to eligible members of a benefit unit.

Application of Policy

The following persons are eligible for dental benefits:

- ODSP recipients and their spouse 18 years of age or older
- Former ODSP recipients and their spouse 18 years of age or older who are receiving Extended Health Benefits
- Former ODSP recipients and their spouse 18 years of age or older who are receiving Transitional Health Benefits, and
- ODSP recipients (or their spouse 18 years of age or older) who live in residences providing specialized care (listed in s. 32(2) of the ODSP General Regulation) where the residence does not cover the costs for dental services

Dental Special Care Plan

In addition to basic dental services, recipients and eligible spouses may receive services under the Dental Special Care Plan. The Dental Special Care Plan provides additional dental services for those whose disability, prescribed medications or prescribed medical treatment affects their oral health.

Examples include:

- Radiation of head/ neck
- Diuretics
- Diabetes
- HIV/AIDS
- Developmental disabilities (such as Down Syndrome)

A dentist or dental hygienist can apply for the Dental Special Care Plan on behalf of the client by submitting a predetermination to AccertaClaim Servcorp Inc. (Accerta). Accerta administers the ODSP dental benefit on behalf of MCSS.

Dental Special Care treatment plans are valid for five years as long as the client continues to be eligible for the ODSP dental benefit. Should the client require additional services within the five year period, a new pre-determination is required to authorize those services.

Further information about the Dental Special Care Plan and instructions on how to apply are in the MCSS dental and dental hygiene schedules.

Dental Cards

Dental cards provide the dentist/dental hygienist with verification that the person is eligible for the dental services covered in the MCSS schedules.

Dental cards are mailed with the monthly entitlement cheque/statement and cover dental benefits for the following month.

The dental card lists the names of each eligible member of the benefit unit. If a valid card is not automatically issued with the monthly cheque/statement and the member of the benefit unit is determined to be eligible for the ODSP dental benefit, a manual dental card can be issued.

If the recipient has misplaced his or her dental card, the local office may replace it by issuing a manual dental card.

The dental card should be presented to the dentist/dental hygienist prior to treatment and the client should ensure that the dentist/dental hygienist is participating in the MCSS Dental Plan.

Alternatively, the recipients can provide their dentists/dental hygienists with a current ODSP cheque stub as verification of eligibility for dental benefits. However, the cheque stub would not include the name of an eligible spouse.

Staff can order dental cards from:

<https://www.samo.css.gov.on.ca/resources/forms/formsRequest.html>

If a dental office has questions regarding claims processing and payments, they can be directed to Accerta at 1-800-505-7430 or 416-922-6565

Cleft Lip and Palate Program of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Dependent children of ODSP recipients may be eligible for benefits under the Cleft Lip and Palate program of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Information about the program can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/publications/child/cleft.aspx>

Hyperlinks Associated with this Policy Directive

Related Directives:

[2.1 Who is Eligible: Dependent Adults](#)

[2.3 Who is Eligible: Spouse](#)

[9.10 Extended Health Benefit](#)

[9.19 Transitional Health Benefit](#)