

# COMPREHENSIVE ADULT DENTAL MA BENEFITS

HF898 and SF782, introduced by Representative Bierman and Senator Boldon, would provide the same Medicaid dental benefit set for all eligible Minnesotans. A comprehensive benefit set is paramount to good oral health and the overall health and wellbeing of patients.

Minnesota currently has two different dental benefit sets for enrollees in the state's Medicaid program, (a/k/a Medical Assistance); (1) the pregnant adult and children benefit set, and (2) the non-pregnant adult benefit set. In 2009, non-pregnant adult Medicaid benefits were significantly limited because of budget cuts. While pregnant adults and children under the age of 21 experience extensive benefits, many of our most vulnerable adult residents enrolled in Medicaid lack coverage of basic dental services.

## THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE NOT CURRENTLY COVERED IN THE ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT BUT WOULD BE COVERED UPON PASSAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION:

- › More than one periodic examination per year
  - › Detailed and extensive oral evaluation
  - › Comprehensive periodontal evaluation
  - › A second annual prophylaxis (cleaning) appointment
  - › A second annual topical fluoride treatment
  - › Crowns
  - › Further endodontic treatment and periodontal scaling and root planning
  - › Comprehensive prosthodontic treatment, including dentures
- › The MDA's legislation would establish one benefit set for all Minnesotans, regardless of age. Taking the benefit set currently available for pregnant adults and children and making it available to every medical assistance recipient.
- › Medical assistance recipients are the state's most vulnerable residents. Many of these recipients include the elderly and disabled. A comprehensive dental benefit can positively impact the overall health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable residents; residents that are deserving of oral health benefits and services that are equally available to all other Minnesotans.
- › A recent analysis by the American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute identified Minnesota as one of several states with a limited Medicaid adult dental benefit, while 21 states, including Wisconsin, Iowa, and North Dakota, provide comprehensive dental benefits.

A fiscal note during the 2022 Legislative Session estimated that restoring comprehensive adult dental benefits would cost \$43.2 million in the 2024-2025 biennium. Statistics from the Minnesota Hospital Association indicate that emergency room costs for emergency dental services were approximately \$20 million in 2018. With an extensive benefit set, these costs could be prevented.

This bill is included in Governor Walz's budget proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> Medicaid.Gov. Mandatory & optional Medicaid benefits. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Available from: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/mandatory-optional-medicaid-benefits/index.html>. Accessed June 7, 2021.