



465 Medford St., Boston, MA 02129 617-886-1234

## Subscriber's Certificate for Delta Dental PPO Individual Dental Insurance Policy

*Delta Dental\** certifies that you have the right to benefits for services according to the terms of your *contract*. This certificate is part of your *contract*.

**Your Right to Examine This Policy:** Your satisfaction is our number-one priority. You have the right to examine this policy for 10 business days from the date of delivery. Should this policy not meet your needs, please return to us, within 10 business days, the original policy with a letter telling us of your intent to cancel. You will receive a full refund of all premiums paid towards the cancelled policy, and your policy will be void from its effective date. We will subtract from the refund any payments made for claims under this *contract*. If we have paid more for claims under this *contract* than you have paid to us in subscription charges, we have the right to collect the excess from you.

**Pre-existing conditions:** Expenses incurred in connection with any dental procedure started prior to coverage are excluded. Benefits are not available for the replacement of teeth missing prior to the member's effective date of coverage.

**This Policy is guaranteed renewable for life:** This policy will be up for renewal 12 months from your effective date. We reserve the right to change premium rates upon renewal of the policy. We agree to keep your coverage in force as long as you continue to pay the premiums on time and as long as you retain your residency in Massachusetts.

**Entire Contract; Changes:** This policy, including endorsements and attached papers, if any, constitutes the entire contract of insurance. No change in this policy shall be valid until approved by an executive officer of the insurer and unless such approval is endorsed or attached here. No agent has authority to change this policy or to waive any of its provisions.

ATTEST: Dental Service of Massachusetts, Inc.

Fay Donohue  
President & CEO

James Hawkins  
Corporate Clerk

Incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a not-for-profit organization.

\*Dental Service of Massachusetts, Inc. is doing business as Delta Dental Copyright © 1991 – 2000 by Dental Service of Massachusetts, Inc.

## Table of Contents

Part I: Outline of Coverage .....	3
Part II: Member Rights & Responsibilities.....	8
Part III: Definitions .....	4
Part IV: Limitations and Exclusions .....	9
Part V: Other Contract Provisions .....	11
Part VI: Filing a Claim.....	18

## Part I

### Delta Dental of Massachusetts Outline of Coverage Delta Dental PPO

Policy number:

#### 1. Description of Benefits and Coinsurance Amounts:

This coverage includes the following types of services:

Type 1 services prevent or detect tooth decay and other forms of oral disease. Type 1 services are covered at 100%. There is no deductible on Type 1 services. Examples of Type 1 services include:

1. Comprehensive oral examination, including the initial dental history and charting of teeth: This is covered once every 60 months.
2. Periodic oral evaluation. This is covered once every 6 months.
3. X-rays of the entire mouth. This is covered once every 60 months.
4. Bitewing x-rays (x-rays of the crowns of the teeth). This is covered once every 6 months when oral conditions indicate need.
5. Single tooth x-rays are covered as needed.
6. Routine cleaning, scaling, and polishing of teeth are covered once every 6 months.
7. Periodontal cleanings: These are limited to once every 3 months, and are not to be combined with regular cleanings.
8. Fluoride treatment for *covered individuals* under 19 years of age. These are covered once every 6 months.
9. Space maintainers required due to the premature loss of teeth. These are covered only for *covered individuals* under age 14 and not for the replacement of primary or permanent anterior teeth.
10. Sealants on unrestored permanent molars. These are covered once per tooth for members through age 15. Sealants also are covered for members age 16 to 19 who have had a recent cavity and are at risk for decay.
11. Chlorhexidine mouth rinse: This is a covered benefit only when administered and dispensed in the dentist's office following scaling and root planing
12. Fluoride toothpaste: This is a covered benefit only when administered and dispensed in the dentist's office following periodontal surgery.

Type 2 includes services to restore decayed or *fractured* teeth with fillings; repair dentures or bridges; rebase or relines dentures; repair or recement bridges or crown or onlays; treat oral disease and injury involving the teeth and oral tissues with certain oral surgical procedures; treat diseased gum tissue or bone with certain periodontal services; and treat diseased teeth with certain endodontic services.

Type 2 services are covered at 0%. Examples of these services include:

1. Fillings consisting of silver amalgam and, in the case of front teeth, synthetic tooth color fillings are covered, but are limited to one filling for each tooth surface for each 24-month period. However, synthetic (white) fillings are limited to single-surface restorations for posterior teeth. Multi-surface synthetic restorations on posterior teeth will be treated as an alternate benefit, and an amalgam allowance will be granted. The patient is responsible up to the dentist's charge. No benefits are provided for replacement of a filling within 24 months of the date that the prior filling was furnished.
2. Sedative fillings are covered once per tooth.
3. Stainless steel crowns on deciduous (baby) teeth are covered once every 24 months per tooth.
4. Repair of dentures or fixed bridges are covered once every 12 months. Recementing of fixed bridges is covered once in a lifetime.
5. Rebase or reline dentures are covered once every 36 months.
6. Tissue conditioning: Two treatments every 36 months are covered.
7. Repair or recement crowns and onlays are covered. Recementing is limited to once every 12 months per tooth.
8. Simple tooth extractions are covered.
9. General anesthesia is covered only when necessary and appropriate for covered surgical services and when provided by a licensed, practicing dentist.
10. Adding teeth to existing partial or full dentures is covered.
11. Palliative (emergency) treatment of dental pain as a minor procedure is covered.
12. Certain surgical services to treat oral disease or injury are covered. This includes surgical tooth extractions and extractions of impacted teeth.
13. Periodontal services to treat diseased gum tissue or bone including the removal of diseased gum tissue (gingivectomy) and the removal or reshaping of diseased bone (osseous surgery) are covered.
14. Endodontic services for root canal treatment of permanent teeth are covered, including the treatment of the nerve of a tooth, the removal of dental pulp, and the pulpal therapy. Vital pulpotomy is limited to deciduous teeth.

Type 3 includes services and supplies to: replace missing natural teeth with artificial ones; remove diseased or damaged natural teeth and restore severely decayed or *fractured* teeth.

Type 3 services are covered at 0%. Examples of Type 3 services include:

1. Crowns and onlays are covered only when the teeth cannot be restored with the fillings due to severe decay or *fractures*.
2. Dentures and bridges:
  - a) Complete or partial dentures and fixed bridges including services to measure, fit, and adjust them are covered once each 60 months.
  - b) Replacement of dentures and fixed bridges are covered, but only when they cannot be made serviceable and were inserted at least 60 months.
  - c) Temporary partial dentures are covered as follows:

- 1) To replace any of the 6 upper or lower front teeth, but only if they are installed immediately following the loss of teeth during the period of healing.
- 2) For the replacement of permanent teeth for covered individuals who are under 16 years.

### 3. Implants

An endosteal implant (a device surgically inserted into the bone to provide support for a single restoration) when used in lieu of a three unit bridge and the adjacent abutment teeth are not to be restored.

## 2. Frequency Limitations: – Refer to Policy Limits and Exclusions:

1. Comprehensive Oral Examination (including the initial dental history and charting of teeth); once every 60 months.
2. Periodic oral evaluation; once every 6 months.
3. X-rays of the entire mouth; once every 60 months.
4. Bitewing x-rays (x-rays of the crowns of the teeth); once every 6 months for *covered individuals* when oral conditions indicate need.
5. Routine cleaning, scaling and polishing of teeth; once every 6 months.
6. Periodontal Cleanings – limited to once every 3 months, not to be combined with regular cleanings.
7. Fluoride treatment for *covered individuals* under 19 years of age; once every 6 months.
8. Space maintainers required due to the premature loss of teeth; only for *covered individuals* under age 14 and not for the replacement of primary or permanent anterior teeth.
9. Sealants—Unrestored permanent molars, once per tooth for members through age 15. Sealants are also covered for members age 16 to 19 for those who have had a recent cavity and are at risk for decay.
10. Chlorhexidine mouth rinse—this is a covered benefit only when administered and dispensed in the dentist's office following scaling and root planing.
11. Fluoride Toothpaste—this is a covered benefit only when administered and dispensed in the dentist's office following periodontal surgery.
12. Fillings consisting of silver amalgam and (in the case of front teeth) synthetic tooth color fillings, but limited to one filling for each tooth surface for each 24-month period. However, synthetic (white) fillings are limited to single-surface restorations for posterior teeth. Multi-surface synthetic restorations on posterior teeth will be treated as an alternate benefit and an amalgam allowance will be given. The patient is responsible up to the dentist's charge. No benefits are provided for replacing a filling within 24 months of the date that the prior filling was furnished.
13. Sedative fillings; once per tooth.
14. Stainless steel crowns on deciduous (baby) teeth; once every 24 months per tooth.
15. Repair of dentures or fixed bridges; once every 12 months. Recementing of fixed bridges; once in a lifetime.
16. Rebase or reline dentures; once every 36 months.
17. Tissue conditioning; two treatments every 36 months.

18. Repair or recement crowns and onlays. Recementing is limited to once every 12 months per tooth.
19. Complete or partial dentures and fixed bridges including services to measure, fit, and adjust them; once each 60 months.
20. Replacement of dentures and fixed bridges, but only when they cannot be made serviceable and were installed at least 60 months.
21. Temporary partial dentures as follows:
  - a. To replace any of the six upper or lower front teeth, but only if they are installed immediately following the loss of teeth during the period of healing.
  - b. For the replacement of permanent teeth for *covered individuals* who are under 16 years.
22. Crowns and onlays only when the teeth cannot be restored with fillings due to severe decay or *fractures*
23. Replacement of crowns and onlays; once each 60 months per tooth.

4. Waiting Periods: There are no waiting periods for Type II and III services under this policy.

5. Pre-existing conditions: For work in progress before the effective date of this policy – dental expenses incurred in connection with any dental procedure started prior to coverage are excluded. No benefits are available for the replacement of teeth missing prior to the member's effective date of coverage.

6. This policy is renewable upon becoming eligible for Medicare.

7. Dependents will no longer be eligible for coverage under the subscriber's policy once they reach their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

8. This policy is subject to premium increases at the time of renewal. This policy will be in force for 12 months from the effective date.

9. You have the right to examine this policy for 10 days from the date of delivery. Should this policy not meet your needs please return to us, within 10 days, the original policy with a written letter telling us of your intent to cancel. You will receive a full refund of all premiums paid toward the cancelled policy and your policy will be void from the original effective date. We will subtract from the refund any payments made for claims under this *contract*. If we have paid more for claims under this *contract* than you have paid us in subscription charges, we have the right to collect the excess from you.

Read your policy carefully. This disclosure statement is a very brief summary of your policy. The policy itself sets forth the rights and obligations of both you and the insurance company. It is, therefore, important that you **READ YOUR POLICY CAREFULLY**.

**COMPLAINTS:** If you have a complaint, call us or your agent. If you are not satisfied, you may call the Massachusetts Division of Insurance.

## Part II: Member Rights & Responsibilities

As a *Delta Dental* member, you have the right to:

- File *grievances* about *Delta Dental* or the *participating dentists*. In the case of an adverse determination, *Delta Dental* may include alternative treatment options that are covered, appropriate, and consistent with general principles of professional dental practice.
- be provided with appropriate information about *Delta Dental* and its benefits, dentists, and policies
- be informed of your diagnosis, treatment and prognosis by your dentist
- give informed consent before beginning any dental treatment, and be made aware of consequences of refusing treatment
- obtain a copy of your dental record, in accordance with the law
- be treated with respect and recognition of your dignity and need for privacy
- at your request, interpreter and translation services related to administrative procedures are available to you or a covered family member.

### خدمات الترجمة / ترقية

في حالة طلبكم تقديم معلومات عن سياسات وخدمات ترقية تتعلق بالإجراءات الإدارية.

អ្នកបកប្រែ ឬក៏ការបកប្រែ

បើអ្នកឆ្លើយតបមានអ្នកបកប្រែ និងក៏ការបកប្រែ ដែលជាជំនាញរបស់អ្នក

វិធីបាត់បង់ការ បើមានផ្តល់ជូន ។

翻譯服務

如果您提出請求，我們可以為您提供協助辦理行政手續的翻譯服務。

Services de traduction et d'interprétariat.

Les services de traduction et d'interprétariat en connexion avec les procédures administratives sont disponibles sur demande

Υπηρεσίες Διαμετρήσεων/Μεταφραστική

Μετά από αίτησή σας, υπηρεσίες διαμετρήσεων και μεταφραστική σχετική με διοικητικές διαδικασίες είναι στη διάθεσή σας.

Sèvis Entèprèt ak Tradiksyon Si w mande sèvis entèprèt ak tradiksyon pou prosede administratif, nap mete yo a dispozisyon ou.

Servizi di interpretariato e traduzione A richiesta, sono disponibili servizi di interpretariato e traduzione relazionati con pratiche amministrative.

**Служба переводов/переводов**

**Служба переводов, предоставляющая услуги переводов и интерпретации для административных процедур.**

Serviços de tradutor(a)/intérprete Se assim o solicitar, estão disponíveis serviços de tradução e interpretação para os procedimentos administrativos.

**Услуги устного/письменного перевода**

**По Вашему требованию будут предоставлены услуги устного и письменного перевода, связанные с административными процедурами.**

Servicios de interpretación/traducción Si usted lo solicita, se encuentran a su disposición servicios de interpretación y traducción para asistirle en procedimientos administrativos.

You have the responsibility to:

- ask questions in order to understand your dental condition and treatment, and follow instructions for recommended treatment given by your dentist
- provide information to your dentist that is necessary to render care to you

be familiar with *Delta Dental* benefits, policies and procedures, by reading *Delta Dental* written materials, or calling Customer Service.



## Part III: Definitions

***Adverse determination:*** Means a decision by *Delta Dental* to deny, reduce, or modify the availability of any dental care services, because your condition failed to meet the requirements for coverage based on necessity, appropriateness of care, level of care, or effectiveness.

***Calendar-year Deductible:*** This *deductible* must be satisfied each calendar year.

***Carry-forward Deductible:*** Any portion of the *deductible* amount that is satisfied during the last three months of the calendar year is carried forward and applied to the following year's *deductible*.

***Complaint:*** Means any *inquiry* made by you or on your behalf to *Delta Dental* that is not explained or resolved to your satisfaction within ten (10) business days of the *inquiry*; or involves an *adverse determination*.

***Contract:*** This Subscriber's Certificate, Enrollment Form, any applicable Riders, Endorsements and Supplemental Agreements.

***Covered Individual:*** A person who receives dental benefits from us. This usually includes *subscribers* and their dependents.

***Date of Service:*** The actual date the service was completed. With multi-stage procedures, the *date of service* is the final completion date (for example, the insertion date of a denture).

***Deductible:*** The portion of the covered dental expenses that the *subscriber* must pay before the plan's payment begins.

***Delta Dental:*** Dental Service of Massachusetts, Inc., is doing business as either *Delta Dental* of Massachusetts or *Delta Dental*.

***Delta Dental PPO Non-panel Dentist:*** A dentist who has not signed an agreement with us to accept allowances for services rendered on *subscribers* in the *Delta Dental PPO* plan. We will reimburse such dentists up to the maximum fee allowance for each geographic area or the dentist's submitted fee, whichever is less.

***Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentists:*** A dentist who has signed an agreement with us to accept reimbursement based on an established allowance for services rendered on *subscribers* enrolled in the *Delta Dental Premier* plan.

***Dependent:*** We cover *dependent* children up to age 26.

***Disenrollment:*** *Covered individuals* who are disenrolled because they have moved out of our service area, or whose continuations of coverage periods have expired. They are former dependents that no longer qualify as dependents, or *covered individuals* who lose coverage

under an employer sponsored plan because they have ceased employment. They are disenrolled because their employer group has canceled coverage under the plan, reduced number of hours worked, or they have become disabled, retired or died. The involuntary disenrollment rate amongst all insured is less than .05% as currently defined.

**Effective Date:** The date, as shown on our records, when your coverage begins under this *contract* or an amendment to it.

**Emergency medical condition:** A medical condition, whether physical or mental, manifesting itself by symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, that the absence of prompt medical attention could reasonably be expected by a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, to result in placing the health of an insured or another person in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to body function, or serious dysfunction of any body organ or part or, with respect to a pregnant woman, as further defined in section 1867 (e)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act, 42 USC section 1395dd(e)(1)(B).

**Family Contract:** A *contract* that includes you, your spouse, and your unmarried *dependent* children. Dependents are covered up to age 26. **Adopted children** and children under your own or your spouse's legal guardianship are also covered. In addition, **a physically or mentally handicapped child** who is not capable of earning his or her own living and is over 26 years may be eligible to continue coverage under a family membership if we are notified within 72 days of the child's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday and by completing a disabled dependent application.

**Fracture:** The breaking off of rigid tooth structure, not including crazing due to thermal changes or chipping due to attrition.

**Grievance:** Refers to any oral or written *complaint* submitted to *Delta Dental* by you or on your behalf concerning any aspect or action of *Delta Dental*. This is including, but not limited to, review of *adverse determinations* regarding the scope of your coverage, denial of services, quality of care and administrative operations.

**Inquiry:** Means any question or concern communicated by you or on your behalf to *Delta Dental*, which has not been the subject of an *adverse determination*.

**Maximum Fee Allowance:** The payment amount that we set for the *Non-Participating Dentist* for services that may be provided under this *contract*. We pay benefits according to the Outline of Reimbursement as filed and approved by the Division of Insurance for Massachusetts dentists for this contract and the terms and conditions of the applicable Benefits Payable Rider attached to this certificate and in effect at the time services are rendered.

**Non-Participating Dentist:** a dentist registered under Massachusetts G.L.c. 112, ss. 45, 48 or any fully registered or licensed dentist in any other jurisdiction who has not entered into an agreement with *Delta Dental* to furnish services to its *covered individuals* under its traditional fee-for-service benefit plans.

**Participating Dentist:** a dentist registered under Massachusetts G.L.c. 112, ss. 45, 48 and who has entered into an agreement with *Delta Dental* to furnish services to its *covered individuals* under its traditional fee-for-service benefit plans.

**Subscriber:** An individual whose name this policy is under.

### **Part III: Limitations and Exclusions**

#### **1. WE LIMIT BENEFITS FOR SOME SURGICAL SERVICES**

Benefits are not provided for the following services when the *covered individual's* condition requires that he or she be admitted as an inpatient in a hospital or surgical day care center. However, we will consider review of the following in-hospital surgical procedures for coverage if they are not benefits under your medical carrier's *contract*:

- Surgical removal of unerupted or impacted teeth when embedded in bone
- Extraction of seven or more permanent teeth
- Removal of a benign or cancerous growth other than a radicular cyst
- Radicular cysts involving the roots of three or more teeth
- Gingivectomies involving two or more gum quadrants
- Gingival flap
- Mucogingival surgery
- Osseous surgery
- Osseous graft
- Soft tissue graft

We will not consider coverage:

- a. If our non-payment was due to you reaching your maximum
- If our non-payment was due to you meeting your deductible and having no payment due after your deductible was met.

#### **2. WE PROVIDE BENEFITS ONLY FOR NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE SERVICES**

We will not provide benefits for a dental service that is not covered under the terms of your *contract* as listed in your benefits. We also will not provide benefits for a covered dental service that is not necessary and appropriate to diagnose or treat your dental condition as determined by us.

- A. To be necessary and appropriate, a service must be consistent with the prevention of oral disease or with the diagnosis and treatment on:
  - a. those teeth that are decayed or *fractured*; or
  - b. those teeth where supporting periodontium is weakened by disease, in accordance with standards of good dental practice not solely for your convenience or the convenience of your dentist

- B. Delta Dental will determine what is necessary and appropriate under the terms of the *contract*: We make that decision based on a review of your dental records describing your condition and treatment. We may decide a service is not necessary and appropriate under the terms of the *contract* even if your dentist has furnished, prescribed, ordered, recommended, or approved the service.

3. WE DO NOT PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR:

- A service or procedure that is not generally accepted, as determined by us.
- A service or procedure that is not described as a benefit in this *contract*.
- Services that are rendered because of the requirements of a third party, such as an employer or school.
- Travel time and related expenses.
- An illness or injury that we determine arose out of and in the course of your employment.
- A service for which you are not required to pay, or for which you would not be required to pay if you did not have this *contract*.
- A method of treatment more costly than is customarily provided. Benefits will be based on the least costly method of treatment.
- A separate fee for services rendered by interns, residents, fellows, or dentists who are salaried employees of a hospital or other facility.
- Appointments with your dentist that you fail to keep.
- Dietary advice and instructions in dental hygiene including proper methods of tooth brushing, the use of dental floss, plaque control programs, and caries susceptibility tests.
- A service rendered by someone other than a licensed dentist or a hygienist who is employed by a licensed dentist.
- Consultations.
- A service to treat disorders of the joints of the jaw (temporomandibular joints).
- A service, supply, or procedure to increase the height of teeth (increase vertical dimension) or restore occlusion.
- Restorations for reasons other than decay or fracture, such as erosion, abrasion, or attrition.
- Services that are meant primarily to change or to improve your appearance.
- Occlusal guards for the treatment of disorders of the joints of the jaw or for bruxism (grinding).
- Implants when not in lieu of a three-unit bridge.
- Transplants.
- Replacement of dentures, bridges, space maintainers, or periodontic appliances due to theft or loss.
- Services, supplies, or appliances to stabilize teeth when required because of periodontal disease such as periodontal splinting.
- Lab exams.
- Photographs.
- Laminate veneers.
- Duplicate dentures and bridges.
- Temporary, complete dentures and temporary fixed bridges or crowns.

- Stainless steel crowns on permanent teeth.
- Cast restorations, copings, and attachments for installing overdentures.
- Services related to congenital anomalies. However, this exclusion does not apply to orthodontic services that may be covered by an orthodontic rider.
- Tooth desensitization.
- Occlusal adjustment.

## Part IV: Other Contract Provisions

### 1. BENEFIT PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES BY *PANEL DENTISTS*

The amount of co-insurance and *deductibles*, if any, that you may be required to pay your *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* is explained in the Benefits Payable Rider you have purchased. Payments are made directly to a *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* from *Delta Dental*.

### 2. WHEN YOUR *PANEL DENTIST* MAY CHARGE YOU MORE

When your *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* provides covered services based on the *Delta Dental* PPO allowance in each state, he or she must accept the allowance as payment in full. But in the following cases you will be responsible for the difference between the *Delta Dental* payment and the dentist's actual charge for covered services:

- A. If you have received a treatment when you have already exhausted your maximum or you received a treatment, which will cause you to exceed your maximum benefit allowed for services, you may be billed at the dentist's normal rate rather than *Delta Dental's* negotiated rate. For example, the maximum dollar amount for a *covered individual* in a calendar year. To avoid any unexpected out of pocket expenses, you can visit *Delta Dental's* web site, [www.deltadentalma.com](http://www.deltadentalma.com), or call Customer Service to determine your remaining benefits.
- B. If you receive a treatment that is not covered under your plan, you may be billed at the dentist's normal rate rather than the negotiated rate.
- C. If you and your dentist decide to use services that are more expensive than those customarily used by most dentists, benefits will be provided toward the service with the lower fee.
- D. If you receive payment from another person or his or her insurance company for injuries he or she caused.
- E. If, for some reason, you receive services from more than one dentist for the same procedure or receive services that are furnished in a series during a planned course of treatment. In such a case, the amount of your benefit will not be more than the amount that would have been provided if only one dentist had furnished all the services.
- F. If the payment is based on a *schedule of maximum covered charges* or a standard *table of allowance*.

### 3. PRE-TREATMENT ESTIMATES

If your dentist expects that dental treatment will involve a series of covered services (over \$300), he or she should file a copy of the treatment plan with us BEFORE these services are rendered to a *covered individual*. A treatment plan is a detailed description of the procedures that the dentist plans to perform and includes an estimate of the charges for each service.

Once we receive the treatment plan, we will notify you and your dentist about the maximum extent of your benefits for the services reported.

NOTE: Pre-treatment estimates are calculated based on current available benefits and the patient's eligibility. Estimates are subject to changes and eligibility that applies at the time services are completed and a claim is submitted for payment.

4. BENEFIT PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES BY *NON-PANEL DENTISTS*

A. No referrals are needed to visit a non-panel and/or non-participating dentist.

B. For services performed by a Massachusetts non-panel *participating dentist*, the out-of-network coinsurance may be 20% lower than the in-network panel dentist coinsurance. The coinsurance will be applied against the lesser of the dentists negotiated fee allowance or the dentist's submitted charge..

Non-panel *participating dentist* will receive a reduced payment and can balance bill the difference between *Delta Dental's* payment and their actual submitted charge.

For services performed by a Massachusetts *non-participating dentist*, the out-of-network coinsurance may be 20% lower than the in-network panel dentist coinsurance. The coinsurance will be applied against the lesser of the *maximum fee allowance* or the dentist's submitted charge. The *non-participating dentist* will receive a reduced payment and can balance bill the difference between *Delta Dental's* payment and their actual submitted charge.

Any dentist, participating, non-panel or non-participating, may bill *covered individuals* for the difference between the *Delta Dental* payment and any amounts resulting from plan specific *deductibles*, coinsurance, or amounts in excess of the plan maximums.

C. Out-of-State *Delta Dental PPO Non-panel Dentists*

For services performed by a non-panel *participating dentist*, the out-of-network coinsurance may be 20% lower than the in-network panel dentist coinsurance. The coinsurance will be applied against the lesser of the dentists negotiated fee allowance or the dentist's submitted charge.

For services performed by a *non-participating dentist*, the out-of-network coinsurance may be 20% lower than the in-network panel dentist coinsurance. The coinsurance will be applied against the lesser of the *maximum fee allowance* or the dentist's submitted charge.

The *non-participating dentist* will receive a reduced payment and can balance bill the difference between *Delta Dental's maximum fee allowance* and their actual submitted charge. The member will be responsible for paying the dentist.

Any dentist, participating, non-panel or non-participating, may bill *covered individuals* for the difference between the *Delta Dental* payment and any amounts that may result from plan specific *deductibles*, coinsurance, or amounts in excess of the plan maximums.

#### D. Emergency Care

When a *covered individual* receives emergency care and cannot reasonably reach a *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist*, payment for such care will be paid at the same level as if the *covered individual* had been treated by a *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* once you notify *Delta Dental* of your need to seek such care.

Nothing in this section will prohibit a covered member from seeking emergency care whenever the member is confronted with an emergency medical condition that in the judgment of a prudent layperson would require pre-hospital emergency medical services. This includes the option of calling the local pre-hospital emergency medical services system by dialing 911, or its local equivalent.

Coverage will not be denied for dental expenses incurred as a result of such emergency condition.

#### E. Dukes and Nantucket Counties

When a covered individual receives services from a Non-panel Dentist in either Dukes or Nantucket Counties those services will be payable at the preferred level in those counties until an adequate network has been established.

### 5. TIME LIMIT

All claims for benefits under this *contract* for services by any dentist must be submitted within **one year** of the date that you complete the service.

If benefits are denied because a *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* or *Delta Dental Participating Dentist* fails to submit a claim on time, you will not be responsible for paying the dentist for the portion of the dentist's charge that would have been a benefit under your plan. You will be responsible for your relevant coinsurance or *deductibles*, if any. This applies only if you properly inform your *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* or *participating dentist* that you are a *covered individual* by presenting your *subscriber* identification card.

### 6. SUBROGATION

You may have a legal right to recover some costs of your dental care from someone else because another person has caused your illness or injury. When you have this right, you

must let us use it if we decide to recover any payments we have made for the illness or injury. However, if you use this right to recover money from someone else, you must repay us for the payments we have made. Our right to repayment comes first. It can be reduced only by our share of your reasonable cost of collecting your claim against the other person, or if the payment received is described as payment for anything other than dental expenses. You must give us information and assistance and sign necessary documents to help us receive our repayment. You must not do anything that might limit our repayment.

7. WE MUST HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR DENTAL AND/OR OTHER RECORDS

You agree that when you claim benefits under this *contract*, you give us the right to obtain all dental records and/or other related information that we need from any source. This information will be kept confidential.

The insurer, at its own expense, shall have the right and opportunity to examine the person of the insured when and as often as it may reasonably require during the pendency of a claim hereunder.

*Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentists* and *Delta Dental Participating Dentists* have agreed to give us all information necessary to determine your benefits under this *contract*. Massachusetts state law- M.G.L.c. 176E §7-requires Massachusetts *non-participating dentists* to provide this information also. *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentists* and *Delta Dental Participating Dentists* have agreed not to charge for this service.

If you receive services from a *Delta Dental PPO Non-panel Dentist* or a *Non-Participating Dentist* who practices and treats you outside Massachusetts, you must help us obtain all dental records or other related information we need. *Delta Dental* will not pay the dentist for providing this information. If the dentist does not provide the required information, we may not provide benefits for his or her services.

8. SUBSCRIPTION CHARGE

- A. Payments: The amount of money that you pay to us for your benefits under this *contract* is called your subscription charge. You are responsible to pay the total subscription charges by the due date on each **monthly, annual** invoice.
- B. Grace Period: A grace period of 31 days will be given for the payment of each subscription due after the first premium, during which grace period the policy shall continue in force. If subscription charges have not been paid within 31 days after the payment due date, we may end this agreement upon written notice to you, as of the date to which subscription charges have been paid.
- C. Reinstatement: If any renewal premium is not paid within the time granted the insured for payment, a subsequent acceptance of premium by the insurer or by any agent duly authorized by the insurer to accept such premium shall reinstate the policy without requiring an application for reinstatement. However, if the insurer or such



agent requires an application for reinstatement and issues a conditional receipt for the premium paid, we will reinstate the policy upon our approval of such application or, without such approval, on the 45<sup>th</sup> day following the date of such conditional receipt unless we have previously notified you in writing of our disapproval of such application. The reinstated policy shall cover only loss resulting from such accidental injury as may be sustained after the date of reinstatement and loss due to such sickness as may begin more than 10 days after such date. In all other respects the insured and insurer shall have the same rights thereunder as they had under the policy immediately before the due date of the defaulted premium, subject to any provision endorsed here or attached here in connection with the reinstatement. Any premium accepted in connection with a reinstatement shall be applied to a period for which premium has not been previously paid but not to any period more than 60 days before the date of reinstatement.

- D. Changes: We may change your subscription charge. Each time we change the subscription charge, we will send you a notice at least 30 days before the effective date of change.

#### 9. WE MAY CHANGE YOUR CONTRACT

We may change a part of your *contract*. If we do, we will send you a notice each time. The notice will describe the change being made. You can also call our Customer Service department to get information on your plan change. Telephone numbers are listed at the end of this certificate.

The notice will tell you the *effective date* of the change. The change will apply to all benefits for services you receive on or after the *effective date*. There is one exception: If you started receiving services for a procedure requiring two or more visits before the *effective date* of the change, we will not apply the change to services related to that procedure.

#### 10. WHEN YOUR COVERAGE BEGINS

You will be responsible for maintaining with *Delta Dental* a current and updated listing of covered dependents and will be responsible for maintaining with us an accurate and current listing.

You will inform us when you or your dependents are eligible as a *covered individual* or family member under this certificate of coverage. This eligibility is based upon *Delta Dental's* underwriting guidelines. The dental services described in this certificate are covered immediately as of your *effective date*, unless your benefits are subject to a waiting period or there exist some limitations or exclusions on your membership which are found in Part IV of this certificate.

You, your spouse and your dependent children under 26 years of age, as well as their children under 26 years of age, are eligible for coverage. Adopted children and children under your own or your spouse's legal guardianship are also eligible for coverage. A

physically or mentally handicapped child, who is incapable of earning his or her own living and over 26 years, may be eligible to continue coverage under a *family contract* if *Delta Dental* is notified within 72 days of the child's twenty sixth birthday, and by completing a disabled dependent application.

#### 11. WHEN YOUR COVERAGE ENDS

A *covered individual* will not be eligible for coverage when any of the following occurs:

- A. The *subscriber* is no longer enrolled in the plan.
- B. Your unmarried dependent child under your *family contract* reaches his or her 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- C. If your unmarried dependent child is either mentally or physically handicapped upon reaching 26 years and is not capable of earning his or her own living, your child can continue coverage under your *family contract* through special arrangements. You must apply for this coverage within 72 days of your child's 26th birthday. Also, you must supply us with any medical or other information that we may need to determine if your child is eligible to continue coverage under your *family contract*.
- D. If you become divorced or legally separated, your spouse's coverage under an existing family membership will continue so long as you remain a *subscriber* of the plan, unless a court judgment provides otherwise. This coverage will continue until either you or your spouse remarries, or until the date of coverage termination stated in the judgment of divorce or separation, whichever is earlier. If you remarry and your divorce judgment so provides, your former spouse will have the right, for an additional subscription, to continue to receive such benefits as are available to you by means of the issuance of an individual plan.
- E. The subscriber is no longer a Massachusetts resident.

#### 12. TERMINATION OF A CONTRACT

- A. You may cancel your *contract* for any reason. To do so, you must give us notice in writing at least 30 days prior to the termination date. If your subscriber charge is paid for period beyond your cancellation date, we will refund the subscription charge for that period to you provided no claim payments have been made for services rendered after your termination date.

If you cancel your *contract*, you must wait at least one year after your cancellation before you can enroll again as a *subscriber*.

- B. We may cancel your *contract*.  
We may cancel your *coverage* if you have not paid your subscription charges. Cancellation will be effective on a date we choose, but not earlier than the subscription charge due date. You will owe us the subscription charge due for the period between the due date and the cancellation date.

A written notice will be sent to your last known home address. The notice will include the date your dental plan was terminated that the termination was because of non-payment of subscription charges, and that we will honor dental services that are

covered under your dental plan for you and your dependents prior to the effective date of the notice.

We will make a reasonable effort to notify you. The notice will be sent by either first-class or certified mail, postage pre-paid to your last known home address

We may also, upon due notice to you, cancel your *contract* under any of the following circumstances:

- a) We may cancel your *contract* if you make any fraudulent claim or misrepresentation to us or to any dentist, such as an incorrect or incomplete statement on your application card which led us to believe you were eligible for this coverage when in fact you were not. In such a case, cancellation will be as of your *effective date*. We will refund you the subscription charge you have paid us. We will subtract from the refund any payments made for claims under this *contract*. If we have paid more for claims under this *contract* than you have paid us in subscription charges, we have the right to collect the excess from you.
- b) We may cancel your *contract* if your subscription charges are overdue according to the provisions of 940 CMR 9.00. Cancellation will be effective on a date we choose, but not earlier than the subscription charge due date. You will owe us the subscription charge due for the period between the due date and the cancellation date.
- c) We may cancel your *contract* if you have been guilty of uncooperative or unethical dealings with us, or for any other cause that the Commissioner of Insurance approves.
- d) Time Limit on Certain Defenses: After 2 years from the date of issue of this policy no misstatements, except fraudulent misstatements, made by the applicant in the application for such policy shall be used to void the policy or to deny a claim for loss incurred or disability as defined in the policy commencing after the expiration of such 2-year period; OR Incontestable: After this policy has been in force for a period of 2 years during the lifetime of the insured (excluding any period during which the insured is disabled), it shall become incontestable as to the statements in the application. No claim for loss incurred or disability (as defined in the policy) commencing after two years from the date of issue of this policy shall be reduced or denied on the ground that a disease or physical condition not excluded from coverage by name or specific description effective on the date of loss had existed prior to the effective date of coverage of this policy.
- e) We may cancel your *contract* if you commit any acts of physical or verbal abuse which readily pose a threat to a dentist or other of our members which are unrelated to your mental or physical condition.
- f) We may cancel your *contract* if you are no longer a resident of Massachusetts.

### 13. BENEFITS AFTER CANCELLATION

If you cancel your *contract* no benefits will be provided for services that you receive after your cancellation date.

If we cancel your *contract* for any reason other than misrepresentation, we will keep providing benefits only if you started receiving services for a procedure that requires two or more visits before the cancellation date and the treatment is completed within 30 days of the termination date. In such a case, the benefits described in this *contract* are available after your cancellation date for services related to that procedure.

#### 14. NOTICES

To you: When we send a notice to you we will send it by first class mail. Once we mail the notice or bill we are not responsible for its delivery. This applies to your bill for subscription charges. This also applies to a notice of a change in the subscription charge or a change in the *contract*. If your name or mailing address changes, you should notify us at once.

Send letters to 465 Medford Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02129. Always include your name and subscriber identification number

#### 15. ENROLLMENT AND CONTRACT CHANGES

All enrollment applications and any additions or changes to a *contract* are allowed ONLY when they conform to our Underwriting Guidelines on file with the Commissioner of Insurance.

#### 16. WHEN AND HOW BENEFITS ARE PROVIDED

Benefits will be provided ONLY for those covered services that are furnished on or after the *effective date* of this *contract*. If before a *subscriber's effective date* he or she started receiving services for a procedure that requires two or more visits, NO BENEFITS are available for services related to that procedure.

In order for you to receive any of the benefits for which you may have a right, you must inform your dentist that you are a *covered individual* and supply him or her with your *Delta Dental PPO* subscriber identification number and any necessary information needed to file your claim. If you fail to inform your dentist within 12 months after the services are rendered, we will no longer be obligated to provide any benefits for those services.

Nothing in this certificate of coverage will prohibit a covered individual from seeking emergency care whenever the individual is confronted with an emergency medical condition, which in the judgment of a prudent layperson would require pre-hospital emergency services. This includes the option of calling the local pre-hospital emergency medical services system by dialing 911, or its local equivalent.

#### 17. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTS OF DENTISTS

We will not interfere with the relationship between dentists and patients. You are free to select any dentist. It is your responsibility to find a dentist. We are not responsible if a

dentist refuses to furnish services to you. We are not liable for injuries or damages resulting from the acts or omissions of a dentist.

#### 18. COORDINATION OF BENEFITS (COB)

We will coordinate benefits when you or your dependents have another plan that covers the same services as your *contract*. We will coordinate benefits according to applicable law (including the provisions of the Massachusetts Division of Insurance's COB regulations and this Subscriber's Certificate. We can supply a copy of these regulations upon request.

The plan that provides benefits first under the COB rules is the primary plan. The primary plan will provide benefits according to its terms of coverage. The primary plan does not consider the coverage of any other plan. The plan that provides benefits next is the secondary plan. The secondary plan provides benefits toward the remaining balance of covered services subject to its terms of coverage and COB provision.

When we are the secondary plan, we will provide benefits toward the remaining balance for covered services. Your *contract* and this Subscriber's Certificate determine these benefits, subject to regulations.

#### 19. RIGHT TO RECOVER OVERPAYMENTS

If we pay more than we should have, then you must refund any overpayment to us.

**IMPORTANT:** No statement in this section shall mean that we will provide more benefits than those described in your *contract*. If you have questions about coordination of benefits or your *contract*, please contact our Customer Service department. Telephone numbers are listed at the end of the Subscriber's Certificate.

#### 20. LEGAL ACTIONS

No action at law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this policy prior to the expiration of 60 days after written proof of such loss has been furnished in accordance with the requirements of this policy. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of 3 years after the time written proof of loss is required to be furnished.

#### 21. UTILIZATION REVIEW

This is the formal process designed to monitor the use of, or evaluate the medical appropriateness or efficiency of health care services. A utilization review program has been established to ensure that any guidelines and criteria used to evaluate the medical appropriateness of a health care service are clearly documented and include procedures for applying such criteria based on the needs of the individual patients and characteristics of the local delivery system. The program was developed in conjunction with actively practicing dentists in all specialty areas of expertise and is reviewed at least annually to ensure that criteria are applied consistently.

Any utilization review conducted under your dental *contract* is done retrospectively or at the time a claim for services has been submitted for reimbursement. In order for a submitted claim to be covered, the procedure must be included as one of the “Covered Procedures” in your certificate. If a procedure is not a covered procedure then the claim for that procedure will be denied in accordance with the terms of your certificate and the group policy. Coverage of certain procedures may also be limited by frequency, age, *effective dates* of coverage, etc which are all *contractually* stated within your certificate.

There are also a number of listed procedures which are only considered a covered expense if a patient presents with a specified health history and/or has been diagnosed with a specified condition. During the claims review of these specific procedures, there may be a determination by a licensed dental practitioner that the procedure that was performed was not determined to be medically appropriate in accordance with the criteria that has been established in accordance with our utilization review program. In these situations, the claim for that procedure may be denied or partially reimbursed in accordance with the benefit for an alternate procedure.

All claims are processed within 30 working days of obtaining all necessary information. Our standard turn-around times are generally 10 working days for claim review. For all claims submissions you and your dentist will receive an explanation of benefits which details how each submitted procedure was reimbursed and/or the reason for denial.

When a claim has been denied or partially denied based on medical appropriateness, this is considered an *adverse determination*. These decisions are reviewed by qualified and appropriately licensed health professionals and only after receiving any relevant clinical information necessary to make the decision.

If you wish to make an *inquiry*, determine the status or outcome of a decision with *Delta Dental*, you can submit your *inquiry* to us:

In writing:

Attention: Customer Service  
Delta Dental of Massachusetts  
465 Medford Street  
Boston, MA 02129

By telephone: 1-800-872-0500

web site: [www.deltadentalma.com](http://www.deltadentalma.com)

## 22. GRIEVANCE PROCESS:

You have the right to make inquiries and/or file a *complaint* with *Delta Dental* of Massachusetts. If you wish to make an *inquiry*, file a *complaint*, or determine the status or

outcome of utilization review decisions with *Delta Dental*, you can submit your *inquiry* or *complaint* to us:

In writing:

Attention: Grievances  
Delta Dental of Massachusetts  
465 Medford Street  
Boston, MA 02129

By telephone: 1-800-872-0500  
web site: [www.deltadentalma.com](http://www.deltadentalma.com)

### **Internal Levels of Review:**

Internal Inquiry Process: *Delta Dental* will attempt to answer your questions and/or resolve concerns for all issues with the exception of reviews of an *adverse determination* (if you request a review for an *adverse determination*, this will be handled through the internal *grievance* process discussed below).

We will respond within ten (10) business days to your *inquiry*. If we don't respond within ten (10) business days, then we'll treat your *inquiry* as an internal *grievance* as discussed below. With our written response to your *inquiry*, we will communicate your right to request an internal *grievance* if your questions have not been satisfactorily addressed.

### **Internal Grievance Process:**

You may file a *grievance* by phone, in person, by mail, or by electronic means. If an oral *grievance* has been presented, we will request your *grievance* in writing and be sent to us within ten (10) business days, unless this time frame has been waived or extended by mutual written agreement between both you and *Delta Dental*.

We will send a written acknowledgement of our receipt of your *grievance* to you or your authorized representative, if any, within fifteen (15) business days of receipt. We will provide you or your authorized representative, if any, a written resolution of a *grievance* within thirty (30) business days of receipt of the written *grievance*.

### **Written Decision:**

In the event that your *grievance* involves an *adverse determination*, our written response shall include a substantive clinical justification that is consistent with generally accepted principles of professional dental practice and will:

1. Identify the specific information upon which the *adverse determination* was based.
2. Reference and include applicable clinical practice guidelines and review criteria.

### **Reconsideration:**

We will always provide you with the opportunity to have a final decision reconsidered where relevant information is received too late to review within the thirty (30) business day time limit or is not received but is expected to become available within a reasonable period.

We will review reconsideration and provide our written response to you as soon as possible following receipt of the additional information. We agree to provide a response no later than thirty (30) business days following your request for reconsideration..

## **Part V: Filing a Claim**

### **1. EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS (EOB)**

Each time we process a claim for you under this *contract*, a written notice called an Explanation of Benefits may be sent to you. This notice will explain your benefits for that claim. This notice will tell you how we paid the claim or the reason(s) it was denied.

### **2. WHO FILES A CLAIM**

A. Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentists: *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentists* will file claims directly to us for the Services covered by this *contract*. We will make benefit payments to them

B. Delta Dental PPO Non-panel Dentists: If you use a *Delta Dental PPO Non-panel Dentist* you may be asked to file a claim. Claim payments will be made directly to you. It is your responsibility to pay your dentist. You will be responsible for paying the dentist the difference between the dentist's charge and *Delta Dental's* payment.

### **3. TIME LIMIT OF FILING CLAIMS**

All claims for benefits under this *contract* for services by a *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* or a *Delta Dental PPO Non-panel Dentist* must be submitted within one year of the date that you complete the service. If benefits are denied because a *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* fails to submit a claim on time, you will not be responsible for paying the dentist for the portion of the dentist's charge that would have been a benefit under your plan. You will be responsible for your patient liability, if any. This applies only if you properly inform your *Delta Dental PPO Panel Dentist* that you are a *covered individual* by presenting your *subscriber* identification card.

### **4. WHEN YOU FILE A CLAIM**

When you file a claim for the services of a *non-panel dentist* who is a *non-participating dentist*, the following rules apply.



You must give us written notice of claim within one year of the occurrence or commencement of any service covered by the policy. Notice to the insurer is deemed as that given by or on behalf of the insured or the beneficiary to the insurer at our main office or to any authorized agent of the insurer, with information sufficient to identify the insured.

Obtain an Attending Dentist's Statement claim form, complete it, and send it to us. After we receive your completed forms we will:

1. send you a check for your claim to the extent of your benefits under this *contract*; or
2. send you written notice of why we are not paying your claim; or
3. send you written notice of any additional information or records we need to decide if we should pay your claim.

It is up to you to pay your dentist. If you have any questions, contact our Customer Service department. Telephone numbers are listed at the end of this certificate.

**Claim forms:** The insured can obtain a claim form from our website or by requesting one from our Customer Service department. If such forms are not furnished within 15 days after the request the claimant shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this policy as to proof of loss upon submitting, within the time fixed in the policy for filing proofs of loss, written proof covering the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which the claim is made.

**Proof of Loss:** Written proof of loss must be furnished to us at our office in case of claim for loss for which this policy provides any periodic payment contingent upon continuing loss within 90 days after the termination of the period for which we are liable and in case of claim for any other loss within 90 days after the date of such loss. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time, provided such proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possibly and in no event except in the absence of legal capacity, later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

**Time of Payment of Claims:** All benefits under this policy for any loss will be paid immediately upon receipt of due written proof of such loss. However, no benefits will be paid until the Claim Form required by the policy has been submitted to us.

**Payment of Claims:** Dental benefits provided under this policy will be paid by us directly to *Panel Dentists* and non-panel *participating dentists*. We will make claim payments for services performed by *non-participating* dentists directly to you, or to your estate should any benefits be unpaid at death.

If you have any questions, contact our Customer Service department. Telephone numbers are listed at the end of this certificate.



465 Medford Street  
Boston, MA 02129

Customer Service:  
617-886-1234  
800-872-0500

Corporate Office:  
617-886-1000  
800-451-1249

DENTAL SERVICE OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.  
DOING BUSINESS AS DELTA DENTAL OF MASSACHUSETTS  
RIDER 1

To be attached to and form a part of your Delta Dental PPO Individual Dental Insurance Policy

This Rider changes your Delta Dental PPO Individual Dental Insurance Policy contract as follows:

Paragraph G is added to the end of Section 2 of Part IV of the contract, as follows:

“G. If you receive a treatment that is covered at 0% under your plan and is furnished by a dentist outside of Massachusetts, you may be billed at the dentist’s normal rate rather than the negotiated rate.”

If there is any conflict or discrepancy between the language in this Rider and your contract, this Rider shall govern and supersede the contract.

NOTE: Underlined terms are defined in your contract.

DENTAL SERVICE OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.  
d/b/a DELTA DENTAL OF MASSACHUSETTS



Fay Donohue  
President and CEO, DSM

Incorporated under the laws of the  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
as a Non-Profit Organization

DDP-PPA6 R1 11/15/2013