Making Preventive Care a Priority

Improve oral health through preventive care

Delta Dental is dedicated to improving oral health, and we know that you share that same dedication. Our recent Preventive Dental Care Study, which included data from more than 114 million Delta Dental claims, found that many patients are not visiting their dentist often enough to receive the preventive care they need.

**Higher-Risk Adults**
Adults who have had previous periodontal treatment are considered to be at higher risk for ongoing gum disease, and adults who have had three cavities filled in the past three years are considered to be at higher risk for tooth decay.

- **46%** Adults with periodontal disease who did not receive the recommended two or more cleanings or periodontal maintenance appointments in 2015.
- **29%** Adults at higher-risk for tooth decay did not get a dental exam in 2015.

**Higher-Risk Children**
Children who have had a cavity filled in the past three years are considered to be at higher risk for tooth decay.

- **69%** Children under age 3 who did not visit the dentist in 2015.
- **24%** Children age 3 to 18 who did not visit the dentist in 2015.
- **64%** Children under age 18 who did not receive two or more fluoride treatments in 2015.
- **60%** Children age 6 to 9 who did not receive sealants on first molars in 2015.
- **85%** Children age 10 to 14 who did not receive sealants on second molars in 2015.

Count on us to help spread the word

Our study found that the oral health of children and adults can be better protected with increased use of preventive care. Dental plans usually cover these treatments at no additional cost. We are identifying ways to create dental plan designs and educational materials on the importance of oral health, to lead more patients to your chair for evidence-based preventive care. Additionally, we encourage all groups offering dental benefits to select a plan that covers sealants and two fluoride treatments per year for children. Help us spread the word by talking with your patients about their risk profile and how to make the best use of their dental benefits.

1. Delta Dental’s Preventive Dental Care Study is an annual study that investigates whether higher-risk children and adults receive the preventive care they need. For the calendar year 2015 the study analyzed more than 114 million dental claims. For more information on the study, visit deltadental.com/pdcstudy.