

## Dental Benefits

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

### Overview of Benefits for: SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS SBCFF LOCAL 2046

Date Prepared: 10-02-2023

The Preferred Dentist Program was designed to help you get the dental care you need and help lower your costs. You get benefits for a wide range of covered services — both in and out of the network. The goal is to deliver affordable protection for a healthier smile and a healthier you.

Coverage Type	In-Network: % of Negotiated Fee	Out-of-Network: % of R&C Fee <sup>1</sup>
Type A	100%	100%
Type B	90%	85%
Type C	60%	50%
Orthodontia	50%	50%
<b>Deductible:</b> Individual/Family*	\$50 (Type B & C)	\$50 (Type B & C)

<b>Annual Maximum Benefit:</b> Per Individual	\$1500	\$1500
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<b>Orthodontia Lifetime Maximum:</b> Per Individual	\$1500	\$1500
	Ortho applies to Adult and Child (Up to dependent age limit)	

#### Understanding Your Dental Benefits Plan

With the MetLife Preferred Dentist Program you can visit the dentist of your choice – an “in-network” dentist (a participating MetLife dentist) or an “out-of-network” dentist.

- Plan benefits for in-network services are based on the percentage of the Negotiated fee –the fee that in-network dentists have agreed to accept as payment in full for covered services, subject to any co-payments, deductibles, cost sharing and benefit maximums. Negotiated fees are subject to change.
- Plan benefits for out-of-network services are based on a percentage of the Reasonable and Customary (R&C) charge. If you choose a dentist who does not participate in the network, your out-of-pocket expenses may be higher, since you will be responsible for paying any difference between the dentist's fee and your plan's payment for the approved service. Please refer to the Selected Covered Services and Frequency Limitations page of this document for details regarding how R&C charges are defined under this plan.

#### Take advantage of online self-service capabilities with MyBenefits.

- Check the status of your claims
- Locate a participating dentist
- Access MetLife's Oral Health Library
- Elect to view your Explanation of Benefits online

If you are not already registered, just go to [www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits) and follow the easy registration instructions.

Certain plan benefits are based on a percentage of the negotiated fee. This is the amount that participating dentists have agreed to accept as payment in full. If your plan benefits are based on a percentage of the Reasonable and Customary (R&C) charges, your out-of-pocket expenses may be more, since you will be responsible for paying any difference between the dentist's fee and your plan's payment for the approved service.

\* If you are enrolled for dependent coverage, a maximum family deductible may apply.

Savings from enrolling in a dental benefits plan will depend on various factors, including the cost of the plan, how often participants visit the dentist and the cost of services rendered.

**Selected Covered Services and Frequency Limitations\***

<b>Type A</b>	
• Oral Examinations	1 in 6 months.
• Fluoride	Children to age 14 / 1 in 12 months.
• Bitewing X-rays	Adult - 1 in 12 months / Children - 1 in 12 months.
• Cleanings	1 in 6 months.
<b>Type B</b>	
• Full Mouth X-rays	1 in 36 months.
• Periodontal Maintenance	2 in 1 year less the number of teeth cleanings.
• Space Maintainers	For dependent children to age 14. Limited to 1 per lifetime per area.
• Emergency Palliative Treatment	
• Periodontal Root Planing & Scaling	1 per quadrant in any 24 months period.
• Sealants (1st & 2nd permanent molars)	1 per tooth in 60 months of a dependent child up to 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
• Amalgam & Composite Fillings	1 per surface in 24 months.
• Simple Extractions	
• Root Canal	One per tooth per Lifetime.
<b>Type C</b>	
• Crowns	1 in 10 years.
• Dentures	1 in 84 months.
• Bridges	1 in 84 months.
• Periodontal Surgery	1 in 36 months.
• Surgical Extractions	
• Repairs (Crowns)	1 in 12 months.
<b>Orthodontia</b>	
• Dependent children are covered up to their 26th birthday.	
• All dental procedures performed in connection with orthodontic treatment are payable as Orthodontia.	
• Payments are on a repetitive basis.	
• 20% of the Orthodontia Lifetime Maximum will be considered at initial placement of the appliance and paid based on the plan benefit's coinsurance level for Orthodontia as defined in the Plan Summary.	
• Orthodontic benefits end at cancellation of coverage.	

The service categories and plan limitations shown in this document represent an overview of your plan benefits, but are not a complete description of the plan. Before making any purchase or enrollment decision you should review the certificate of insurance which is available through MetLife or your employer. In the event of a conflict between this overview and your certificate of insurance, your certificate of insurance governs. Like most group dental insurance policies, MetLife group policies contain certain exclusions, limitations and waiting periods and terms for keeping them in force. The certificate of insurance sets forth all plan terms and provisions, including all exclusions and limitations.

**\*Alternate Benefits:** Your dental plan provides that if there are two or more professionally acceptable dental treatment alternatives for a dental condition, your plan bases reimbursement, and the associated procedure charge, on the least costly treatment alternative. If you and your dentist have agreed on a treatment that is more costly than the treatment upon which the plan benefit is based, you will be responsible for any additional payment responsibility. To avoid any misunderstandings, we suggest you discuss treatment options with your dentist before services are rendered, and obtain a pretreatment estimate of benefits prior to receiving certain high cost services such as crowns, bridges or dentures. You and your dentist will each receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) outlining the services provided, your plan's reimbursement for those services, and your out-of-pocket expense. Actual payments may vary from the pretreatment estimate depending upon annual maximums, plan frequency limits, deductibles and other limits applicable at time of payment.

1. The Reasonable and Customary charge is based on the lowest of the: "Actual Charge" (the dentist's actual charge); or "Usual Charge" (the dentist's usual charge for the same or similar services); or "Customary Charge" (the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile charge of most dentists in the same geographic area for the same or similar services as determined by MetLife).

The service categories and plan limitations shown above represent an overview of your plan benefits. This document presents the majority of services within each category, but is not a complete description of the plan.

## Exclusions

### We will not pay Dental Insurance benefits for charges incurred for:

1. Services which are not Dentally Necessary, those which do not meet generally accepted standards of care for treating the particular dental condition, or which We deem experimental in nature.
2. Services for which You would not be required to pay in the absence of Dental Insurance.
3. Services or supplies received by You or Your Dependent before the Dental Insurance starts for that person.
4. Services which are primarily cosmetic (For residents of Texas, see notice page section in your certificate).
5. Services which are neither performed nor prescribed by a Dentist except for those services of a licensed dental hygienist which are supervised and billed by a Dentist and which are for:
  - scaling and polishing of teeth; or
  - fluoride treatments.
6. Services or appliances which restore or alter occlusion or vertical dimension.
7. Restoration of tooth structure damaged by attrition, abrasion or erosion.
8. Restorations or appliances used for the purpose of periodontal splinting.
9. Counseling or instruction about oral hygiene, plaque control, nutrition and tobacco.
10. Personal supplies or devices including, but not limited to: water piks, toothbrushes, or dental floss.
11. Decoration, personalization or inscription of any tooth, device, appliance, crown or other dental work.
12. Missed appointments.
13. Services:
  - covered under any workers' compensation or occupational disease law;
  - covered under any employer liability law;
  - for which the employer of the person receiving such services is not required to pay; or
  - received at a facility maintained by the Employer, labor union, mutual benefit association, or VA hospital.
14. Services covered under other coverage provided by the Employer.
15. Temporary or provisional restorations.
16. Temporary or provisional appliances.
17. Prescription drugs.
18. Services for which the submitted documentation indicates a poor prognosis.
19. The following when charged by the Dentist on a separate basis:
  - claim form completion;
  - infection control such as gloves, masks, and sterilization of supplies; or
  - local anesthesia, non-intravenous conscious sedation or analgesia such as nitrous oxide.
20. Dental services arising out of accidental injury to the teeth and supporting structures, except for injuries to the teeth due to chewing or biting of food.
21. Caries susceptibility tests.
22. Initial installation of a fixed and permanent Denture to replace one or more natural teeth which were missing before such person was insured for Dental Insurance, except for congenitally missing natural teeth.
23. Other fixed Denture prosthetic services not described elsewhere in this certificate.
24. Precision attachments.
25. Adjustment of a Denture
26. Diagnosis and treatment of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders. This exclusion does not apply to residents of Minnesota.<sup>1</sup>
27. Repair or replacement of an orthodontic device.<sup>1</sup>
28. Duplicate prosthetic devices or appliances.
29. Replacement of a lost or stolen appliance, Cast Restoration, or Denture.
30. Intra and extraoral photographic images.

<sup>1</sup> Some of these exclusions may not apply. Please see your plan design and certificate for details.

## COMMON QUESTIONS... IMPORTANT ANSWERS

### Who is a participating dentist?

A participating dentist is a general dentist or specialist who has agreed to accept MetLife's negotiated fees as payment in full for services provided to plan participants. Based on internal analysis by MetLife, negotiated fees typically range from 15-45% below the average fees charged for the same services by dentists in the same geographic area.

\*Negotiated Fees refers to the fees that in-network dentists have agreed to accept as payment in full for covered services, subject to any co-payments, deductibles, cost sharing and benefits maximums. Negotiated fees are subject to change.

### How do I find a participating dentist?

You can access a list of participating dentists with directions and mapping capabilities online at [www.metlife.com/dental](http://www.metlife.com/dental) or call 1-800-ASK-4-MET (800-275-4638) to have a list faxed or mailed to you based upon the requested ZIP code. **Please Note:** Be sure to verify provider participation when you make your appointment.

### May I choose a non-participating dentist?

Yes. You are always free to select the dentist of your choice. However, if you choose a dentist who does not participate in the MetLife program, your out-of-pocket expenses may be greater, since you will be responsible to pay for any difference between the dentist's fee and your plan's payment for the approved service. If you receive services from a participating dentist, you are only responsible for the difference between the in-network fee for the service provided and your plan's payment for the approved service. Please note: any plan deductibles must be met before benefits are paid.

### Can my dentist apply for participation in network?

Yes. If your current dentist does not participate in the MetLife network and you would like to encourage him or her to apply, tell your dentist to visit [www.metdental.com](http://www.metdental.com), or call 1-877-MET-DDS9 for an application. The website and phone number are designed for use by dental professionals only.

### How are claims processed?

Dentists may submit your claims for you, which means you have little or no paperwork. You can track your claims online and even receive e-mail alerts when a claim has been processed. If you need a claim form, you can find one online at [www.metlife.com/dental](http://www.metlife.com/dental) or request one by calling 1-800-ASK-4-MET (800-275-4638).

### Can I find out what my out-of-pocket expenses will be before receiving a service?

Yes. With pre-treatment estimates, you never have to wonder what your out-of-pocket expense will be. MetLife recommends that you request a pre-treatment estimate for services in excess of \$300 (This often applies to services such as crowns, bridges, inlays, and periodontics). To receive a benefit estimate, simply have your dentist submit a request for a pre-treatment estimate online at [www.metdental.com](http://www.metdental.com) or call 1-877-MET-DDS9 (638-3379). You and your dentist will receive a benefit estimate online or by fax for most procedures while you are still in the office so you can discuss treatment and payment options and have the procedure scheduled on the spot. Actual payments may vary depending upon plan maximums, deductibles, frequency limits and other conditions at time of payment.

### Do I need an ID card?

No, you do not need to present an ID card to confirm that you are eligible. You should notify your dentist that you participate in MetLife's PDP. Your dentist can easily verify information about your coverage through a toll-free automated Computer Voice Response system.

### Do my dependents have to visit the same dentist that I select?

No, you and your dependents each have the freedom to choose any dentist.

### If I do not enroll during my initial enrollment period can I still purchase Dental Insurance at a later date?

Yes, eligible employees who do not elect coverage during their 31-day application period may still elect coverage later. Dental coverage elected after the 31-day application period is subject to the following waiting periods:\*

- No waiting period for Preventive Services
- 6 months on Basic Restorative (Fillings)

- 12 months on all other Basic Services
- 24 months on Major Services
- 24 months on Orthodontia Services (if applicable)

\*If the policy holder participates in a section 125 plan and has an annual open enrollment period, the dental coverage will not be subject to any waiting periods. Please consult your Benefits Administrator or your certificate for this plan information.

### **Am I eligible for all benefits the first day of coverage?**

Your plan may include benefit waiting periods. Please refer to the certificate of insurance or your Benefits Administrator for details about the services that are subject to the waiting periods and the length of time they apply.

### **How can I learn about what dentists in my area charge for different procedures?**

If you have MyBenefits you can access the Dental Procedure Tool. You can use the tool to look up average in- and out-of-network fees for dental services in your area. \* You'll find fees for services such as exams, cleanings, fillings, crowns, and more. Just log in at [www.metlife.com/mybenefits](http://www.metlife.com/mybenefits).

\* The Dental Procedure Fee Tool application is provided by VerifPoint, an independent vendor. Network fee information is supplied to VerifPoint by MetLife and is not available for providers who participate with MetLife through a third-party. Out-of-network fee information is provided by VerifPoint. This tool does not provide the payment information used by MetLife when processing your claims. Prior to receiving services, pretreatment estimates through your dentist will provide the most accurate fee and payment information

### **Can MetLife help me find a dentist outside of the U.S. if I am traveling?**

Yes. Through MetLife's International Dental Travel Assistance program<sup>1</sup> you can obtain a referral to a local dentist by calling 1-312-356-5970 (collect) when outside the U.S. to receive immediate care until you can see your dentist. Coverage will be considered under your out-of-network<sup>2</sup> benefits. Please remember to hold on to all receipts to submit a dental claim.

1 International Dental Travel Assistance services are administered by AXA Assistance USA, Inc. Certain benefits provided under the Travel Assistance program are underwritten by Virginia Surety Company, Inc. AXA Assistance and Virginia Surety are not affiliated with MetLife, and the services and benefits they provide are separate and apart from the insurance provided by MetLife. Referral services are not available in all locations.

2 Refer to your dental benefits plan summary your out-of-network dental coverage.

CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
NOTICE TO INSUREDS

**No Cost Language Services.** You can get an interpreter. You can get documents read to you and some sent to you in your language. For help, call us at the number listed on your ID card, if any, or 1-800-942-0854. For more help call the CA Dept. of Insurance at 1-800-927-4357. To receive a copy of the attached MetLife document translated into Spanish or Chinese, please mark the box by the requested language statement below, and mail the document with this form to:  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
PO Box 14587  
Lexington, KY 40512  
Please indicate to whom and where the translated document is to be sent.

**Servicio de Idiomas Sin Costo.** Puede obtener la ayuda de un intérprete. Se le pueden leer documentos y enviar algunos en español. Para recibir ayuda, llámenos al número que aparece en su tarjeta de identificación, si tiene una, o al 1-800-942-0854. Para recibir ayuda adicional llame al Departamento de Seguros de California al 1-800-927-4357. Para recibir una copia del documento adjunto de MetLife traducido al español, marque la casilla correspondiente a esta oración, y envíe por correo el documento junto con este formulario a:  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
PO Box 14587  
Lexington, KY 40512  
Por favor, indique a quién y a dónde debe enviarse el documento traducido.  
NOMBRE \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECCIÓN \_\_\_\_\_

**免費語言服務。** 您可獲得免費口譯服務。您可要求翻譯員向你口譯文件，或可要求向你發回文件的中文譯本。如需協助，請致電您的ID卡上所示號碼（如有），或 1-800-942-0854。如需更多協助，請致電加州保險部熱線 1-800-927-4357。為收取隨附MetLife文件的中文譯本，請勾選此陳述前的方框，並將文件連同此表一併郵寄至：  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
PO Box 14587  
Lexington, KY 40512  
請指明經翻譯文件收件人的姓名及地址。  
姓名 \_\_\_\_\_  
地址 \_\_\_\_\_

**Անվճար թարգմանական ծառայություններ:** Ձեզ կտրամադրվի հայերենի թարգմանիչ, որի օգնությամբ կարող եք հայերենով կարդալ փաստաթղթերը: Հարցերի դեպքում զանգահարեք մեզ Ձեր ID քարտի վրա նշված հեռախոսահամարով կամ 1-800-942-0854: Առավել անվճարական տեղեկատվության համար զանգահարեք Կալիֆոռնիայի Ապահովագրական Դեպարտամենտ 1-800-927-4357 հեռախոսահամարով:

**សេវាកម្មប្រដោយឥតគិតថ្លៃ** ។ អ្នកអាចទទួលបានអ្នកបកប្រែម្នាក់ និងឱ្យគេអានឯកសារនានាឱ្យអ្នកស្តាប់ជាភាសាខ្មែរ ។ សម្រាប់ជំនួយ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកយើង តាមលេខដែលមានចុះនៅលើប័ណ្ណសម្គាល់ខ្លួនរបស់អ្នកប្រសិនបើមាន ឬ តាមលេខ 1-800-942-0854 ។ សម្រាប់ជំនួយបន្ថែមទៀត សូមទូរស័ព្ទទៅក្រសួងធានារ៉ាប់រងនៃរដ្ឋកាលីហ្វ័រញ៉ា (CA Dept. of Insurance) តាមលេខ 1-800-927-4357 ។

**Kev pab txhais lus tsis kom them nqi.** Koj thov tau kom nrhiav neeg txhais lus thiab nyeem ntaub ntawv hais ua lus Hmoob rau koj mloog. Yog xav tau kev pab, hu rau peb ntawm tus xov tooj sau hauv koj daim npav ID, yog muaj, lossis 1-800-942-0854. Yog xav kom pab lwm yam hu rau lub CA Hauv Paus lv-saws-las ntawm 1-800-927-4357.

**無料の通訳サービス。** 通訳を通して日本語で文書を読み上げてもらうことができます。サービスの利用をご希望の方は、お手持ちのIDカードに記載されている番号、または1-800-942-0854へお電話ください。さらなる支援が必要な場合は、カリフォルニア州保険庁1-800-927-4357までお問い合わせください。

**무료 통역 서비스.** 통역자가 문서를 한국어로 읽어드릴 수 있습니다. 도움이 필요하시면, 귀하의 ID 카드에 있는 번호나 1-800-942-0854로 전화하십시오. 다른 도움이 필요하시면, 전화번호 1-800-927-4357로 캘리포니아 보험국에 연락하여 주십시오.

**Бесплатные услуги устного перевода.** Вы можете воспользоваться услугами переводчика, который прочитает вам документы на русском языке. Чтобы получить помощь, позвоните нам по номеру, указанному на вашей идентификационной карточке, если у вас она есть, либо по номеру 1-800-942-0854. Если вам нужна помощь в других вопросах, позвоните в горячую линию Департамента страхования (CA Dept. of Insurance) 1-800-927-4357.

**Libreng serbisyo sa pagsalalin.** Maaari kang kumuha ng tagasalin para basahin sa iyo ang mga dokumento sa wikang Tagalog. Para ikaw ay matulungan, tawagan kami sa numerong nakalista sa iyong ID card, kung mayroon man, o sa numerong 1-800-942-0854. Para sa karagdagang tulong tawagan ang CA Dept. of Insurance sa numerong 1-800-927-4357.

**Dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí.** Quý vị có thể tìm một thông dịch viên và nhờ đọc các tài liệu này cho quý vị bằng tiếng Việt. Để được giúp đỡ, gọi cho chúng tôi tại số nêu trên thẻ ID của quý vị, nếu có, hoặc 1-800-942-0854. Để được giúp đỡ thêm gọi cho Ban Bảo Hiểm CA tại số 1-800-927-4357.

**لا تتوفر خدمات ترجمة بتكلفة.** يمكنك الاتصال بمترجم والحصول على خدمة قراءة المستندات باللغة العربية للمساعدة، اتصل بنا على الرقم الموجود على بطاقة التعريف الخاصة بك، أو اتصل بالرقم 1-800-942-0854. ولمزيد من المساعدة، اتصل بقسم التأمينات التابع لـ CA على الرقم 1-800-927-4357. **سرويس های ترجمه رایگان.** شما می توانید مترجم و اسنادی را به زبان فارسی برای مطالعه دریافت کنید. برای راهنمایی، از طریق شماره درج شده در کارت شناسایی خود (در صورت وجود) یا شماره 1-800-942-0854 با ما تماس بگیرید. برای راهنمایی بیشتر با بخش بیمه کالیفرنیا 1-800-927-4357 تماس بگیرید. **بلا معاوضه مترجم دی خدمات مل سکدی اے۔** ٹیسی ایک مترجم دی خدمات حاصل کرسکدے او جو توڈے واسطے دستاویزات پنجابی وچ پڈ سکدا اے۔ مدد واسطے ایڑیں آئی ڈی کارڈ، گروپ تو، دے وچ نمبر یا 1-800-942-0854 پہ کال کرو۔ آگے مزید مدد واسطے اے نمبر 1-800-927-4357 پہ سی اے ڈیپارٹمنٹ برائے انشورنس نال گال کرو۔

CA LAP STANDALONE NOTICE

September 2008