

Canadian Dental Care Plan

Régime canadien de soins dentaires

Benefits at a glance – Seniors

Accessible. Affordable. Essential.

Oral health is an important part of our overall health and well-being. Regular visits to an oral health professional have proven to reduce the risk of tooth decay, gum disease and other serious health issues such as cardiovascular disease and stroke.

The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) will help ease financial barriers to accessing oral health care for up to nine million uninsured Canadian residents who have an adjusted family net income of less than \$90,000. To improve oral health outcomes, the CDCP will help cover a wide range of oral health care services, on the recommendation of an oral health care provider, when needed.

Benefits at a glance – Seniors

In Canada, most older adults (ages 60 to 79) have had a cavity and are experiencing gum disease. Of those, 16% have untreated tooth decay. As we age, our teeth, gums and other tissues in the mouth undergo changes. Sometimes these changes are affected by chronic diseases and the use of medications and may include:

- sensitive teeth – teeth can be sensitive to hot or cold foods and/or touch
- dry mouth – increases the risk of tooth decay because saliva helps keep harmful germs in check
- exposed roots – gums may start to pull away from our teeth as we age, which can lead to roots being exposed to bacteria that can cause cavities
- loss of natural teeth – older adults are part of the age group that is most likely to lose their natural teeth

The CDCP covers several oral health care services that can help improve the oral health outcomes of seniors:

Common oral health problems for seniors	How the CDCP can help
Tooth decay, gum disease and tooth loss. Exposed roots can also cause sensitivity to hot and cold	<p>The CDCP covers restorative services such as fillings as well as endodontic services such as root canals.</p> <p>The CDCP covers examination and x-rays to diagnose issues.</p> <p>The CDCP covers preventive treatments, including scaling (cleaning) and fluoride treatments, which help reduce the risk of gum disease and tooth decay.</p>
Tooth loss	The CDCP covers complete and partial removable dentures subject to preauthorization.
Poor oral health due to loss of autonomy and manual dexterity	The CDCP covers the cost of some oral hygiene care and services delivered in institutional settings.

For more information on the CDCP, eligibility, the phased application roll-out and examples of what will be covered, visit Canada.ca/dental.