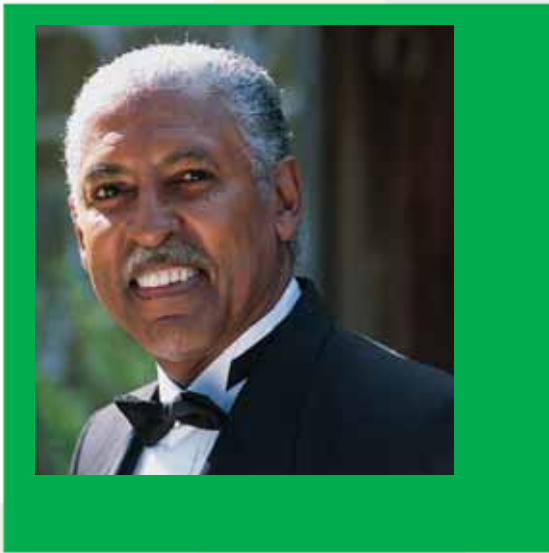


More Than Just a Smile -



Growing evidence connects oral health to overall general health.

*Healthy Mouth,
Healthy Body*

provides additional benefits for important health conditions.



*Healthy Mouth,
Healthy Body*

A Healthy Mouth Can Create a Beautiful, Healthy Smile



Did you know that a healthy mouth can also create a healthier body? Recent research indicates growing evidence that

connects oral health to overall general health. So, a mouth free of periodontal (gum) disease may in fact promote an overall healthier body.

More than 100 diseases show early symptoms in the mouth and may be first detected by a dental exam. In addition, periodontal disease, more commonly called gum disease, appears to negatively influence the body's overall health. Gum disease is the body's inflammatory response to the bacteria in the mouth and many diseases and health issues can be tied to these infections.

Introducing *Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body*

Designed specifically with your employees in mind, Delta Dental of Kentucky's *Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body* provides additional benefits for two important health issues connected to oral health:

- ▶ Pregnancy, and
- ▶ Diabetes



Recent research indicates growing evidence that connects oral health to overall general health.

A Healthier Mouth Can Mean a Healthier Body

According to the American Academy of Periodontology, pregnant women with periodontal disease may be seven times more likely to have a baby that's born too early or too small. Research indicates that a labor-inducing biological fluid is found in oral bacteria. This fluid increases with periodontal disease, thus increasing the risk of preterm, low birth weight babies.

In the case of diabetes, those with the disease can also be very susceptible to periodontal disease. Increased sugar levels have a negative impact on oral health,

increasing the risk of cavities, gum disease and tooth loss. Diabetics can also be more prone to infection. Research also suggests that the relationship between gum disease and diabetes goes both ways - diabetics who have periodontal disease find it far more difficult to control their sugar levels than those who do not have gum problems. The infections can cause increased blood sugar levels putting diabetics at increased risk for complications.



Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body

As a result of the growing evidence connecting oral health to overall health, Delta Dental of Kentucky now offers Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body as a part of your dental benefits package.

- ▶ Pregnant members enrolled in the program are eligible for one additional cleaning or periodontal maintenance procedure during the term of their pregnancy, regardless of normal plan frequency limits.
- ▶ Diabetic members enrolled in the program are eligible for one additional cleaning or periodontal maintenance procedure beyond the ordinary limit per benefit period.

It's simple for your employees to enroll in *Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body*. Easy, one page enrollment forms are submitted by mail or fax to Delta Dental of Kentucky. Once the form is received, the enrollment is complete and the enrollee can talk to their dentist about scheduling their additional visit.