

To: AmeriHealth Caritas DC Medicaid Dental Providers

Date: April 20, 2023

Subject: Orthodontic Benefit Terminates at Age 21 of Enrollees

## Dear Dental Provider:

The orthodontic benefit for DC Medicaid enrollees is covered up to age 20 according to the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) guidelines. At age 21 the orthodontic benefit is no longer covered.

Enrollees are expected to make regular treatment visits to complete their care and it is their responsibility to cooperate with the provider to accomplish timely completion of their orthodontic treatment.

All orthodontic providers should provide a document prior to beginning treatment for the signature of the enrollee or their parent/guardian acknowledging their understanding that the benefit terminates at age 21. The document should also state that any fees related to the continuation of orthodontic treatment at age 21 will become the responsibility of the signatory to the document or the enrollee at the age of 21. The fees apply regardless of when treatment began.

Note that there are no exceptions to this provision to accommodate circumstances including, but not limited to, missed appointments or prolonged absences from treatment. This guideline is not new and all situations involving these circumstances have been in effect for several years.

Any questions in this regard should be directed to Enrollee Services at 202-408-4720 or toll free at 1-800-408-7511.

Sincerely,

Nathan Fletcher, D.D.S., Dental Director AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia

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