

## Accessing Dental Network Providers

## Using providers

Your dental benefits include a preferred provider organization (PPO) to help you save money on dental care. With group dental insurance from Principal Life Insurance Company, you and your covered family members can visit the dentist(s) of your choice.

- You can choose from participating providers in the PPO network or any other dentist.
- We'll even give you a list of dentists who may not be participating providers, but are certified by an independent credentialing company. Using certified dentists helps ensure you have access to quality dentists and cost-effective dental care.
- You can expect the network to include dentists who meet stringent credentialing requirements and use proper billing and practice patterns.

Best of all, PPO providers agree to charge our members the lower of the PPO fees or their normal charges. Lower fees mean you save money on your share of the charge and use less of your total benefit when you visit a participating provider - which can leave benefits available for later if you need them.

This example shows typical savings when using participating providers.

| You go to a dentist inside the PPO network |  | You go to a dentist outside the PPO network |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fee based on PPO provider agreement | \$744 | Normal tee | \$1,075 |
| 80\% coinsurance | $\begin{array}{r}\text { P } \\ \times 80 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 80\% coinsurance | + 80 |
| insurance pays | \$595 | Insurance pays | \$860 |
| You pay ( $20 \%$ coinsurance) | \$149 | You pay ( $20 \%$ coinsurance) | \$ 215 |

In this example, you saved $\$ 66$ - or $30 \%$ - by using the PPO provider. Plus, since your coverage has an annual benefit maximum - around $\$ 1,000$ to $\$ 1,500$ for most of our groups - the lower PPO provider fee allows you to have $\$ 265$ in benefits to use later in the year if needed $(\$ 860-\$ 595=\$ 265)$.

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