

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND MEMBERS

## NORTH DAKOTA MEDICAID BRACES FOR TEETH TREATMENT

The result of today's orthodontic screening allows for a referral to an orthodontist. **This does not guarantee North Dakota (ND) Medicaid will cover the cost of braces for teeth.**

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. You will be referred to an orthodontist who accepts ND Medicaid for a further evaluation. Plan for at least an hour for this appointment.
2. Bring the youth's Medicaid card and other insurance information to the appointment.
3. If the orthodontist recommends treatment, he/she must show the need for orthodontic services in his/her evaluation.
4. The orthodontist will submit his/her evaluation and the original screening form to ND Medicaid.
5. ND Medicaid will review the information to see if "medical necessity" is met. This may take 4-6 weeks.
6. Once a decision is made, you will be notified. If approved, the orthodontist office will contact you to schedule any appointments.

### IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Will you be living in North Dakota for the next 2 to 4 years? If you move before treatment is done, you may have to pay to complete the treatment. Not all state Medicaid programs cover orthodontics and not all communities have orthodontists who accept Medicaid.
- Does the youth want to have braces?
  1. They must practice good oral health habits and go to 2 dental visits per year.
  2. They must brush their teeth after each meal or snack. If they don't, cavities can form from bacteria or food on their teeth. There are things they will not be able to eat. Some examples: popcorn, hard candy and gum.
  3. Will they follow these guidelines? If not, you may want to rethink if braces are the right thing to do at this time.
- There will be many appointments and you may have to travel a long way for these. Parents or caregivers are responsible to make sure their youth goes to the appointments. If you need help with transportation, contact the Customer Support Center toll-free (866) 614-6005 or email [applyforhelp@nd.gov](mailto:applyforhelp@nd.gov).
- The youth must qualify for Medicaid during the time it takes to complete screening, evaluation and start treatment. This could take several months depending on wait lists.

### PLEASE NOTE

The Health Tracks/Orthodontic screeners involvement ends after the initial screening is done, the first appointment for orthodontic evaluation is made and a referral is sent. At this point, you are responsible to work with the orthodontist office on eligibility and services.