

North Carolina Dental Society Healthcare Plan Options for Retiring Dentists/ Dentists Turning Age 65

The NCDS Healthcare Plan Summary, the benefit booklet available online at www.myhealthplanonline.com, outlines the choices available to Dentists who may be considering retirement, or who may be turning 65. Before you finalize your plans, we strongly suggest that you contact the Healthcare Plan office, 1-877-900-6237, and let our Group Health Coordinator review your options with you in detail. Since everyone's personal situation is slightly different, we want to be sure that you have the information you need to make your best decisions.

In general terms, Dentists have the following options under the NCDS Healthcare Plan:

1. Fully retire from the practice of dentistry, and stay on the Plan to age 65.
 - A Dentist may qualify for retiree coverage with the Plan at any time after age 55, provided they have been continuously covered by the Plan for at least one year immediately preceding retirement, and provided they have been a member of the North Carolina Dental Society for at least 20 consecutive years at the time of their retirement.
 - If the Dentist qualifies for retiree coverage, a covered dependent spouse¹ may stay on the Plan until the spouse reaches age 65.
 - When they turn 65, Dentist and spouse would be covered by Medicare².
2. Turn 65, continue working full-time³, and stay on the Plan.
 - A Dentist may choose to stay on the Plan for as long as they continue to work full-time in a participating practice.
 - A covered dependent spouse¹ may stay on the Plan as long as the Dentist continues to work full-time.
3. Turn 65, continue working full-time³, but leave the Plan and go on Medicare².
 - A Dentist's coverage with the Plan would end the day they go on Medicare; a dependent spouse's coverage with the Plan would also end on the day the Dentist's coverage ends.
 - The Dentist would be covered by Medicare.
 - A covered dependent spouse¹ would be eligible for optional State Continuation benefits, which would extend their coverage with the Plan for up to 18 months, if desired.
 - If a Dentist's group was covered by the Plan and the Dentist goes on Medicare, the group does not have to leave the Plan; the group may stay on the Plan, as long as the Dentist remains a member of NCDS.
4. Turn 65 and stop working, or work only part-time.
 - A Dentist's coverage with the Plan would end the day they stop working full-time³.
 - A dependent spouse's coverage with the Plan would also end on the day the Dentist's coverage ends.
 - The Dentist would be covered by Medicare².
 - A covered dependent spouse¹ would be eligible for optional State Continuation benefits, which would extend their coverage with the Plan for up to 18 months, if desired. Contact the Plan for details about enrolling in State Continuation Coverage.

Please Note:

¹Spouses covered as employees of the practice, rather than as dependents, would have the same benefits as other covered employees. See NCDS Healthcare Plan benefit booklet for details.

²Since the NCDS Plan is not intended to serve as a Medicare supplement, Dentists covered by Medicare may wish to purchase Medicare Supplement coverage through their personal insurance agent or other provider.

³You are considered a full-time employee if you are regularly scheduled to work at least the number of hours in the normal work week of your participating employer (as specified in the employer's Plan Participation Agreement), but not less than 16 hours per week. You are considered part-time if you are regularly scheduled to work less than the number of hours specified in the Plan Participation Agreement.