

# Talking Points About the Canadian Dental Care Plan— For Dentists to Use With Patients

Manitoba  
**Dental**  
Association



- The Government of Canada wants to help people have better access to dental care.
- The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) is managed by the federal government/Health Canada. Dentists are not involved in deciding who is eligible or not, or what services are or aren't covered.
- The CDCP does not provide free dental care. It is a dental benefit that may only cover some of the costs of care. Some patients will have to pay a co-payment of up to 60 percent depending on their income. In addition, they might have to pay the portion of the dentist's regular fee that CDCP does not cover.
- The CDCP is a government dental benefit and is different from private insurance plans.
- The CDCP is intended and designed for Canadians who do not have dental benefits and should not take away the benefits that people already have, including existing workplace or private dental plans.
- Not all treatments and services will be covered - please visit [canada.ca/dental](http://canada.ca/dental) to learn what the CDCP will cover.
- As a health care provider, I will make a treatment plan based on your dental needs. I treat YOU, not your dental plan.
- **If you are a non-participating dentist/office:** My/our practice isn't participating in the CDCP because of terms and conditions imposed by the government. I've chosen not to agree to these terms because I believe in providing you with the best possible care. We've (PTDAs and CDA) asked the government to reimburse all patients for their care, but it is up to them to decide whether they will do this or not.
  - I encourage you to keep up with your regular dental appointments – we can catch problems before they become painful or negatively affect your health, and expensive to treat.
- **If asked about charging an additional fee:**
  - There is no additional fee. This is the usual fee for dental care for all patients regardless of their specific dental benefits coverage.
  - The federal government decided not to fully fund the CDCP. Unfortunately, this lack of funding is putting the responsibility on patients and their dentists.
  - We asked the government to fairly pay for your dental care by respecting the suggested fee guide which most provinces and territories have. These fee guides help us set fees that are transparent, fair and predictable for patients.
  - Dental offices are like mini-hospitals and there's a lot that goes into the cost of dental care – expensive equipment, infection control, rent, utilities, staffing costs and high levels of training, and so much more.
  - Dentists are oral health professionals and bring expert skills, equipment, staff and materials in their delivery of dental care should be fairly compensated by the government.