

# Smarter Dental Plans

## Expanded Sealant Coverage

*Sealants generally stop the need for the first filling. And that could save thousands of dollars.*

Your group dental plan provides sealant coverage for primary molars and other permanent molars for patients to 19 years of age, covered under the diagnostic and preventive services category of the plan.

Science has shown that applying sealants to children and young adults significantly reduces the risk of cavities. Sealants are especially encouraged for children who have had cavities in either their primary molars or other permanent molars.

Considering the lifetime cost of a single cavity is more than \$2,000 (fillings need to be replaced on a regular basis, and often ultimately result in the placement of a crown), protecting teeth with sealants is a good investment.

### Did you know?

- Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic childhood conditions.<sup>1</sup>
- Tooth decay is almost entirely preventable.<sup>1</sup>
- Sealants reduce the need for fillings by more than 71%.<sup>2</sup>
- Dental sealants cost about one-third the cost of a filling.<sup>3</sup>
- Dental sealants can reduce decay by 80% in the two years after placement.<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014

<sup>2</sup> Source: Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology, 1993

<sup>3</sup> Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2015