

USN Eligibility For Dental Treatment

Guidelines for Dental Treatment and Referral of Active Duty and Activated Service Members
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Title 10 of the United States Government Code is the basis for all medical and dental benefits (eligibility rules) for US personnel (including civilians). Title 10 guidelines are very straightforward but are written in the positive which makes interpretation difficult at times. For instance: the code primarily addresses who is eligible, it rarely states who is not eligible. We are often accustomed to reading rules in the opposite, i.e., if the rules do not prohibit a procedure, it is assumed the procedure is authorized. Under Title 10, if a given patient or benefit category is not among the eligible/authorized categories, they are not authorized. Title 10 is subdivided into numerous sections outlining benefits and different categories of beneficiary in each section. Therefore, numerous sections of Title 10 must be reviewed to collectively identify who is eligible and for what they are eligible. This review is to provide condensed guidance on eligibility guidelines, when eligibility starts, and what procedures are authorized under these circumstances.

Active duty service members (ADSMs) are eligible for dental care at all active duty dental treatment facilities (DTFs) for all treatment routinely provided at that DTF any time they are on active duty. A DTF referral is not treatment at a DTF; it is supplemental care and subject to Title 10 regulations regarding eligibility for supplemental care. In order to be eligible for supplemental care a service member must be on continuous active duty (or on orders for active duty) for more than 30 days (Title 10 requirement.)

Reserve Component (RC) and National Guard (NG) service members activated on federal (not state) orders are eligible for all care routinely provided by that facility on a space available basis with all other ADSMs any time they are on active duty. This category includes full-time manning Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) personnel as well as drilling [weekend or two-week active training (AT)] members of the Reserves as well as Army and Air National Guard on federal (not state) orders. RC or NG ADSMs on AD for 30 days or less are not eligible for DTF referrals to civilian dental offices (supplemental care through Active Duty Dental Plan (ADDP)) www.addp-ucci.com as eligibility for care is limited to active duty DTFs.

If **activation orders** are for more than 30 continuous days, eligibility for supplemental care begins on the first day of active duty. If the initial orders are for 30 days or less, they are not eligible for supplemental care until they have orders that will extend them for more than 30 days without a break in service. They are eligible for supplemental care from the first day that the orders extend them beyond 30 days. No appointments may be arranged before the commencement of the AD tour. All dental work initiated during the tour of duty should have the reasonable expectation of completion before the current orders expire. Orders should not be issued to initiate treatment nor should orders be amended or extended for completion of dental treatment. Every clinical case is unique and every treatment facility has different capabilities. Treatment provided for a service member at one DTF should not be interpreted as a precedent for a similar level of care at other facilities and/or under other circumstances.

RC/NG service members on AD for more than 30 continuous days (or longer) are eligible for DTF referrals to civilian dental offices (supplemental care) via the Active Duty Dental Plan (ADDP) www.addp-ucci.com as long as treatment is completed while on this continuous active duty. Eligibility for care terminates upon separation from active duty regardless of

when the referral was made or treatment is initiated. Therefore referring dentists and reserve patients must be careful when referring dental treatment that requires multiple appointments or long treatment intervals, i.e., prosthodontics, endodontics, etc., since treatment needs to be completed while the service member is on continuous active duty. Treatment completed after separation from active duty is not eligible for payment or reimbursement through ADDP. The exception of this rule is follow up care for treatment of Line-of-Duty (LOD) injuries.

Line of Duty injury is defined as an incident that occurred during the active duty service that caused an acute injury or aggravated an existing condition. Follow up care is limited to treatment of the injury or aggravated condition. This follow up care can be provided at the DTF or through MMSO without the service member being placed on active duty orders. If the treatment is to be provided using MMSO administered programs, the LOD and dental treatment plan will need to be reviewed and pre-authorized by ADDP www.addp-ucci.com prior to initiating care.

Emergency Care is provided to those who present a true emergency during normal operating hours of 0700-1600 M-F regardless of eligibility status. Our goal is to stabilize the patient's condition; however, follow on care must be completed by the individual's dental provider.

All Services share common regulations and guidelines concerning dental readiness and world-wide deployability. By regulation, all dental disqualifying conditions are to be identified and corrected prior to activation. However, each Service may have different policies on how strictly those regulations are enforced and remedial care to correct those deficiencies. Acceptable guidance concerning Air Force RC/NG on AD and in dental Class 3: Class 3 dental deficiencies should be identified and corrected prior to activation. If a service member is activated in a dental Class 3 status, appropriate care to correct that condition should be provided at the mobilization site in accordance with the guidelines listed above. Activated RC/AG who cannot have their class 3 condition corrected prior to deployment, prior to expiration of their orders, or within 60 days of being placed in Class 3 status, should be profiled and placed on P4T (non-deployable) status.