



2018

GUIDE TO AFFORDABLE ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

The Aurora Health Alliance Senior Circle compiled the following guide to senior oral health resources and services in Aurora for those who lack mobility or have limited ability to pay for dental services.

Guide to Affordable Oral Health Resources for Seniors

Aurora Health Alliance (AHA) is a community-based health alliance working in and for Aurora since 2010. Our mission is to collaboratively improve access to care and create a healthier Aurora, with a focus on the most vulnerable and underserved.

Most of AHA's work is done through active, issue-focused interest groups and task forces that bring together a myriad of healthcare advocates, providers, policy makers, and consumers to better understand and address health access issues in Aurora. One such work group is the Senior Circle, which was started in the fall of 2014 to focus on the needs of Aurora's seniors and the resources available to meet those needs.

A priority concern identified by the Senior Circle is the need to improve access to oral health services for Aurora's seniors. While many of Colorado's oral health initiatives focus on children, our seniors are also underserved when it comes to oral healthcare. Cavities are not just a childhood condition!

- The good news – today's seniors are retaining their natural teeth longer thanks to preventive strategies that were initiated in the 1950s, so there are fewer seniors with dentures. The bad news – natural teeth are subject to dental disease.
- A recent CDC report found that nearly one-third of persons 65 years of age and older have untreated dental caries.
- Oral health care is not covered under Medicare.
- Seniors represent the most uninsured segment of our population when it comes to dental health insurance.
- Many medications can cause dry mouth, which can lead to difficulty chewing and swallowing, and increase the risk of developing cavities and soft tissue problems.
- Oral pain, whether from cavities, missing teeth, ill-fitting dentures, or gum disease and infection, causes many seniors to have to adjust the quality, consistency, and balance of their diet – or be reluctant to eat at all.
- People over the age of 65 are seven times more likely to be diagnosed with oral cancer than those under the age of 65.
- More than 30% of people over 60 years old in the Denver metro area (which includes Aurora) report having difficulty accessing the oral health care services they need.
- In Aurora, approximately 20% of people over 65 live below 200% of the federal poverty level.

The AHA Senior Circle compiled the following list of services and resources for senior oral health in Aurora. If you know of additional services and resources that should be added, please contact admin@aurorahealthalliance.org.

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Oral Healthcare Services

Community College of Denver – Dental Hygiene Program

Services:	Dental cleanings; sealant placement; teeth whitening; teeth polishing and stain removal; root planing and scaling; complete oral exams; x-rays; fluoride treatments; smoking cessation and nutritional counseling; laser pocket decontamination; and limited restorative services only for patients of record (fillings, extractions, single crowns, etc.)
Location:	1062 Akron Way, Bldg. #753, Denver, CO 80230 (On the old Lowry Air Force Base).
Mobile service:	No.
Eligibility:	All patients of all ages. Accepts Medicaid, but no other insurance types.
Costs:	Services are at a low cost: x-rays are \$30; cleanings range from \$15-\$60 and with senior citizen discounts they are even lower from \$10-\$50. Cleanings are free for “super seniors” (over age 82). Payment is due at time of service.
Wait time:	Typically, only a couple of weeks, but it depends on the time of year. Students are on short breaks around Christmas and in May and August in between semesters.
Best phone number:	303-365-8338 or 303-365-8350.
Additional information:	Free parking and easy access; bus service at 11th and Yosemite. All work is done by students, so expect longer appointments (around 3-4 hours in length). Sometimes multiple appointments are necessary to complete the cleaning. All work is supervised by faculty.
Website:	https://www.ccd.edu/about-ccd/community-services/community-clinics/becoming-dental-patient-appointment-request-form

Oral Healthcare Services

Dental Lifeline Network

Services:	The Donated Dental Services (DDS) program provides free, comprehensive dental treatment to vulnerable people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile. These are people who cannot afford necessary treatment and cannot get public aid. The program operates through a volunteer network of more than 15,000 dentists and 3,700 dental labs across the United States. Since its inception in 1985, the DDS program has surpassed \$300 million in donated dental therapies, transforming the lives of 108,000 people. No emergency treatments.
Location:	Depends on the volunteer provider. There are participating dentists in the Aurora area.
Mobile service:	No.
Eligibility:	Applicants must lack adequate income to pay for dental care and: 1) have a permanent disability, or 2) are elderly (age 65 or older), or 3) qualify as medically fragile.
Wait time:	Can be up to one year.
Best phone number:	Denver Metro: 303-534-3931 or kmcgrellis@DentalLifeline.org ; Outside Denver Metro: 303-534-3863 or tmiller@DentalLifeline.org .
Additional information:	All applications must be submitted through a Donated Dental Services Coordinator by contacting the numbers above.
Website:	http://dentallifeline.org/colorado/

Oral Healthcare Services

InnovAge/PACE

Services:	On-site state-of-the-art dental equipment and service; checks every four months; cleanings every six months.
Location:	3551 N. Chambers Rd., Aurora, CO. There are three other locations available in the Denver metro area.
Mobile service:	Yes, for authorized dental appointments.
Eligibility:	Must be age 55+ and enrolled in the InnovAge Colorado PACE (ICP) program.
Wait time:	Normal scheduling.
Best phone number:	Must be enrolled in ICP. Call an enrollment specialist at 844-646-1348.
Additional information:	The ICP care team, working with the patient, sets the frequency of visits, and the care plan is monitored and updated as needed.
Website:	http://myinnovage.com
Cost:	Dental services are provided at no cost to an enrolled ICP Participant

Oral Healthcare Services

Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN)

Services:	Cleanings; fillings; digital x-rays; root canals; emergency care; comprehensive exams; denture; crowns; sealants; extractions.
Location:	North Aurora Family Health Services (NAFHS) at 3292 Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80010; Aurora Health and Wellness Plaza, 10680 Del Mar Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80010; or Pine Tree Dental at 17866 Cottonwood Dr., Parker, CO 80134.
Mobile service:	No.
Eligibility:	MCPN's Oral Health Program provides preventative, restorative and emergency services to patients who are medical patients of MCPN, and emergency care for the whole community.
Costs:	MCPN bills many insurance providers including Delta Dental and Medicaid and has a sliding scale for those who are uninsured. Financial screeners assess the patient's ability to pay based on income and assign them to a sliding scale class. Co- pays are between \$5 and \$30 for all procedures for individuals with the lowest income.
Wait time:	Two-to-three weeks for the Aurora location.
Best phone number:	303-360-6276.
Additional information:	By early-2019, MCPN will be changing its name to Stride Community Health Center. Please continue to check the website for updates.
Website:	www.mcpn.org

Oral Healthcare Services

Spring Rock Dental Clinic

Services:	Dental cleanings; sealant placement; teeth whitening; teeth polishing and stain removal; root planing and scaling; complete oral exams; x-rays; fluoride treatments; smoking cessation and nutritional counseling; fillings, extractions, root canal therapy, implants, dentures, partials.
Location:	990 S. Abilene Street, Aurora, CO 80012
Mobile service:	No.
Eligibility:	Patients of all ages. Accepts Medicaid, and participates with most major PPO Insurances; including Delta Dental, Met Life, Cigna, Aetna, United Healthcare, United Concordia, Guardian, GEHA, Anthem BCBS, Assurant, Careington, Humana, Maverest, Dentemax, Ameritas
Costs:	Varies based on need. New Patient Special \$39.00, includes Full Exam and Xrays or \$69.00 for Full Exam, Xrays and Cleaning. 10% discount offered to seniors. Sliding Fee Scale available to those who qualify
Wait time:	Same day emergency appointments. New Patient appointments within 1 week.
Best phone number:	303-367-2020 or 303-614-7473.
Additional information:	“Our mission: to provide access to quality, affordable oral healthcare to the communities we serve.”
Website:	http://springrockdental.org/

Oral Healthcare Services

Tri-County Health Department Senior Dental Clinic

Services:	Exams; x-rays; fillings; crowns; bridges; dentures; cleanings; dental health education; referrals for specialty services.
Location:	4857 S. Broadway St., Englewood, CO 80113
Mobile service:	No.
Eligibility:	Seniors age 55+, live in Arapahoe County, income places them at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, and who do not have private insurance.
Costs:	10-20% of private office fees, depending upon senior's income. Medicaid accepted (no co-pay). Seniors may be eligible for financial assistance.
Wait time:	Usually minimal
Best phone number:	303-783-7106.
Additional information:	"We are a dental clinic that respects each senior as an individual, and we provide quality services with integrity and excellence to help the senior have improved quality of life. Our goals are to have the senior leave the clinic with functional dentition and to preserve dental health for the senior's lifetime. All dentists and hygienists are licensed by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (no students)."
Website:	http://www.tchd.org/341/Dental

Oral Healthcare Services

University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine

Services:	Comprehensive dental care services including exams, cleanings, fillings, crowns, root canals, dentures, orthodontics, oral surgery, and emergency services.
Location:	University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine on the Anschutz Medical campus.
Mobile service:	No.
Eligibility:	Everyone is eligible for a free screening appointment to determine if one of the CU clinics is a good fit based on dental needs. CU Dental accepts all insurances and is in-network with Medicaid and Delta Dental of Colorado.
Costs:	Fees in the student clinics are typically 30-50% less than private practice fees.
Wait time:	Minimal wait time for screening appointment; patients need a flexible schedule for treatment to progress satisfactorily as care is provided by students and appointments are typically 3 hours in length.
Best phone number:	Call for a screening appointment at 303-724-2273.
Additional information:	CU Senior Smiles Program (starting 7/1/17) provides dental funding for patients who are currently participating in the CU Dental Team Care clinics or those who are accepted through the CU School of Dental Medicine screening process and are age 60+, do not qualify for Medicaid, do not have private insurance, have income at or below 250% of the most current federal poverty level guidelines based on family size, and are lawfully present in the U.S./ Colorado. To apply, contact the Patient Advocate Office at sdm-ptadvocate@ucdenver.edu or call 303-724-7040.
Website:	http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/dentalmedicine/PatientCare/Pages/PatientCare.aspx

**Health First Colorado
(Colorado's Medicaid Program)
Dental Benefit**

Background

In 2014, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing created a limited dental benefit for adult Health First Colorado members age 21 and over. The dental benefit provides eligible members up to \$1,000 in dental services per year which runs from July 1 – June 30.

Benefits

Dental services are a program benefit for eligible* Health First Colorado members of all ages. (*Adults must be eligible for state plan benefits to qualify for dental.)

The adult dental benefit is available to eligible adult Health First Colorado clients (21 and over) and covers:

- Basic preventive dental exams
- Diagnostic and restorative dental services (such as x-rays and fillings)
- Extractions (tooth pulling)
- Root canals
- Crowns
- Partial dentures*
- Complete dentures*
- Periodontal scaling
- Root planing
- Other procedures requiring prior authorization

** Partial and complete dentures are not subject to the \$1,000 cap per year.*

Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) Dental Benefit

Health First Colorado Partners with DentaQuest

Health First Colorado has partnered with DentaQuest to help members find a dentist and help manage our members' dental benefits. All Health First Colorado members receive a welcome packet from DentaQuest with information about dental benefit coverage, how to use dental benefits and where to get information.

DentaQuest operates a customer service center to specifically answer Health First Colorado members' dental questions. DentaQuest's Member Services is available Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time at: 1-855-225-1729, TTY: 711, or at memberaccess.dentaquest.com.

How To Find a Dentist who Accepts Health First Colorado

Part of DentaQuest's role is to help Health First Colorado increase the number of dentists who accept Health First Colorado and to help Health First Colorado members find a dentist. Contact DentaQuest customer service at the number above or visit DentaQuest.com/Colorado to find a dentist near you. You can also search for dentists on our Find a Doctor page.

Links

- Health First Colorado Member Handbook (<https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/>) - Link to the website to learn how to get signed up, what benefits are available, and how to access them.
- DentaQuest.com (<http://www.dentaquest.com/state-plans/regions/colorado/>): Information and access to Dentaquest information and member login.
- Find a Dentist (<https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/find-doctor>): Online form to search for health care providers.
- If you need a ride to a dental appointment, Non-Emergent Medical Transportation may be able to help. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/non-emergent-medical-transportation>
- Health First Colorado Customer Contact Center (<https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/contact-hcpf>): contact information for getting help with Health First Colorado.

Guide to Affordable Oral Health Resources for Seniors

Aurora Health Alliance (AHA) is a community alliance of healthcare organizations, public agencies, providers, civic and business leaders, and residents committed to creating a healthcare system in Aurora that meets the needs of all its residents. AHA offers an inclusive convening table where health and community leaders can come together to discuss and develop solutions to health access issues in their community. AHA has been working since 2010 toward three goals:

Increasing Access! Expanding coverage! Building collaboration!

If you'd like to get involved our Senior Circle interest group, please check out our website at www.aurorahealthAlliance.org for more information, or email admin@aurorahealthalliance.org and request to be added to our outreach list.

*If you know of a resource that is not listed here, or have any corrections to this information, please contact **Brooke Powers** at admin@aurorahealthalliance.org.*

Disclaimer: AHA's mission is to collectively improve access to care and create a healthier Aurora. To accomplish this, AHA:

- hosts speakers relevant to the mission of AHA,
- engages in social media as well as traditional media to distribute information and resources,
- uses local facilities for meetings and functions,
- includes professional and community resource materials in the AHA library, and
- provides links to relevant reports and websites.

These inclusions are not intended as endorsements, but as continued and focused efforts to build collaboration throughout Aurora's healthcare community. While AHA is a facilitator of conversation and distributor of information relevant to its mission, it does not verify or endorse all speakers or information associated with its events or publications.