

Dental Amalgam

According to the most recent findings from the American Dental Association, dental amalgam is the most thoroughly researched and tested restorative material among all those in use today. It is safe, durable, easy to use and relatively inexpensive in comparison to other materials and therefore remains a valued treatment option for dentists and their patients.

Yet, Delta Dental receives many complaints from plan members stating that they were not presented with all the available treatment options in minor restorative situations. Many who received multi-surface posterior composites were not informed that they are not covered by Delta Dental and were not given the option of an amalgam restoration. In fact some dentists have stopped performing amalgam restorations altogether.

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In study after study, the ADA has found that amalgam fillings are safe and reliable and do not cause any harm to the patient. This past April, two independent studies published by the Journal of American Medical Association add to the supporting literature on the safety of dental amalgam.

Delta Dental contracts provide benefits for the least costly, generally accepted procedures. Based on the ADA position on amalgam, it is still a cost-effective, generally accepted procedure. If you are a dentist who no longer performs amalgam fillings, please inform your patients prior to their treatment. When you do so, patients will be able to make an informed choice about their available options and the associated costs.