

ONTARIO SENIORS DENTAL CARE PROGRAM

The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) is for low-income Ontario residents 65 years and older, who do not have access to dental benefits (e.g., private insurance or other government programs). The Ontario government recognizes that living on a fixed income can create gaps in care, something that many seniors in Ontario face. The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program for low-income seniors will help reduce unnecessary visits to the hospital, prevent chronic disease and improve seniors' quality of life.

WHEN WILL THE PROGRAM BEGIN?

Basic services will be available in York Region beginning November 1, 2019. The full range of services will be available later in 2020.

WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE?

Ontario residents aged 65 and older with an income of \$19,300 or less, or a couple with a combined annual income of \$32,300 or less, and without existing dental benefits will qualify for the OSDCP. Other forms of government programs that will provide some form of dental benefits to clients include the Ontario Disability Support Program, Ontario Works Program at the provincial level and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program at the federal level.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

OSDCP services will be provided at no cost for those residents who meet the eligibility criteria; however there may be some costs to eligible residents for select denture services.

HOW WILL SENIORS APPLY?

- Once the program is launched in fall 2019, seniors will be able to obtain an application from the Ministry of Health website or pick up a hard copy from Public Health Units
- Applications will be assessed through a central administrator. Eligible clients will be enrolled in the program and issued a dental card. It may take 4 to 6 weeks to receive a dental card.
- Once deemed eligible, clients will be automatically reassessed for eligibility each year by a centralized process
- A new dental card will be issued yearly if the client remains eligible

SERVICES COVERED UNDER THIS PROGRAM

York Region will provide a range of basic services beginning November 1, 2019. Services will include:

- Assistance with OSDCP enrolment
- Oral hygiene instruction (brushing, flossing, denture care)
- Nutrition counselling related to oral health

Public Health

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/seniorsdental



- Denture cleaning
- Fluoride varnish application (pending a dental assessment by the dental hygienist)
- Assistance with referral to other public health units that are providing dental treatment

A fuller range of preventive and treatment services will be available in YR beginning mid to late 2020 and will include:

- Examinations
- Preventive services
- Restorative services (e.g., fillings) to repair broken teeth and cavities
- Radiographs or x-rays
- Oral surgery services to remove teeth or abnormal tissue
- Root canal treatment for tooth infection and pain
- Periodontal services to treat gum conditions and diseases
- Prosthodontic services, including dentures will be covered to a certain extent

Until the fuller range of services is available in York Region, individuals needing services beyond basic services will be referred to other public health units that are providing dental treatment.

WHERE WILL THE SERVICES BE PROVIDED?

Information on where services will be located can be accessed by checking york.ca/seniorsdental or by calling Health Connection 1-800-361-5653 TTY: 1-866-512-6228 (for the deaf or hard of hearing).

WHERE WILL PROGRAM UPDATES BE PROVIDED?

Updates on the progress and further program details will be available later this fall and can be found on york.ca. Please keep checking york.ca/seniorsdental for updated resources and information.

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