

# Stuart Dental Spa Explains Medicare Coverage for Dental Implants and Dentures During Open Enrollment

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Stuart Dental Spa is explaining how coverage works for adults weighing dental implants and dentures as Medicare open enrollment runs through December 7. Original Medicare, the standard federal coverage, generally does not cover implants or dentures, according to Medicare?s dental guidance. Patients comparing the two options need to consider treatment costs and what recovery from dental implants involves.

Medicare?s guidance lists a few exceptions to its general exclusion of dental care, including dental services directly tied to certain covered treatments such as heart valve replacement or chemotherapy. Some dental care delivered during a qualifying inpatient hospital stay may also be covered. Otherwise, Original Medicare does not pay for most routine dental care, although some beneficiaries have separate dental coverage that helps with costs.

Private insurers offer Medicare Advantage plans that may include benefits beyond Original Medicare, such as dental coverage. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services urges beneficiaries to compare

plans during open enrollment, even if they are happy with their current coverage. The plan documents show whether dental coverage is offered and whether it includes implants or dentures.

Nearly half of Medicare beneficiaries, about 24 million people, had no dental coverage in 2019, according to an analysis by the health policy nonprofit KFF. The same analysis found that dental benefits in Medicare Advantage plans vary widely in scope and are often limited. It also linked limited coverage and cost concerns to beneficiaries skipping routine dental care.

The coverage question carries particular weight in Martin County, Florida, where Stuart Dental Spa is based. Roughly one in three residents is 65 or older, versus about 19% nationwide, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracks complete tooth loss, the loss of all natural teeth, among older adults nationwide.

CDC data from 2015 through 2018 show 12.9% of adults 65 and older had complete tooth loss, rising to 17.8% among those 75 and older. Adjusted for age, the rate fell from 29.9% in 1999 and 2000 to 13.1% in 2017 and 2018. The condition can limit food choices and social interaction, the agency notes.

For older adults deciding how to replace missing teeth, coverage is only one part of choosing between implants and dentures. Traditional dentures are removable devices that replace missing teeth and the surrounding tissue, while implants are artificial tooth roots that support replacement teeth. Stuart Dental Spa reports that its team reviews each patient?s health profile before developing an implant plan.

Osseointegrated implants, which fuse with the jawbone, are widely accepted in dentistry, according to the practice?s published information. The approach grew out of Swedish professor Per-Ingvar Brånemark?s discovery that titanium can bond with living bone. As the jaw heals, new bone forms along the implant?s textured titanium surface, anchoring it in place.

Full dentures replace all the teeth in the upper jaw, lower jaw, or both. Partial dentures fill gaps when some natural teeth remain. Implants can also hold a denture in place, which can make it more stable than a traditional removable denture, according to Stuart Dental Spa?s website.

Timing matters too, because implant treatment generally unfolds in stages over several months, according to Stuart Dental Spa. Open enrollment changes take effect January 1, 2027, so treatment that begins late in the year can span two plan years, which may have different benefits. Medicare?s online plan comparison tool lets beneficiaries check whether plans are making changes for next year.

Stuart Dental Spa is a Florida dental practice that provides family and cosmetic dentistry to patients in the surrounding area. The practice reports that it supports patients from implant placement through the fitting of their final replacement teeth. Its services also include emergency dental care and restorative work such as crowns and bridges.

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**Stuart Dental Spa**

*Stuart Dental Spa provides general dental services, including crowns, bridges, custom cosmetic (full and partial) dentures, dental implants, fillings, extractions, and cleanings.*

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