

Information Sheet

Dental examination and treatment prior to organ transplant, and related Medicare payment

Our immune systems recognize transplanted organs as “foreign,” and will therefore attack the transplants, contributing to rejection. To help prevent such serious complications, drugs are used to “quiet” the immune system. But infections existing before a transplant, or afterward, can therefore spread more easily, creating other types of serious complications.

It is therefore very important that infections be identified and treated to prevent such problems. Dental cavities and gum disease are infections caused by bacteria. That is the reason for dental examinations and treatment prior to a transplant, and why ongoing dental care is recommended afterward.

Medicare will cover dental examinations and treatment to eradicate dental infections when needed before a transplant. Other types of insurance may, too. You are encouraged to check with your insurance provider for details.