



Aetna Dental continues battle against opioids with ground-breaking program

Aetna is combating the massive opioid crisis in our country through coverage of holistic and alternative treatments. We're leading change in the dental space by offering an alternative treatment for impacted wisdom teeth removal.

Here's the problem



Dentists prescribe 12 percent of all immediate-release opioids in the United States.¹



Dentists are the main opioid prescribers for patients 10 – 19 years old.²



20% of patients with an initial 10-day opioid prescription are still on them after a year.³

Here's our solution

We're covering an **alternative option** to opioids after impacted wisdom teeth removal.

Aetna Dental® coverage for EXPAREL® — an opioid alternative

1st
We're the **first** and currently the **only** dental carrier to cover EXPAREL.

EXPAREL is a nonaddictive, one-time injection at the surgical site that relieves pain for the first few days after impacted wisdom teeth removal. Since it takes special training to administer EXPAREL, we created a program to help increase EXPAREL awareness and use among oral surgeons in our network.

- EXPAREL may reduce the need to take opioid medicine.
- We cover EXPAREL under all fully insured Aetna® dental plans.

Our goal by 2022



Reduce opioid prescribing for our members by 50 percent.

To reach our goal:

- We're continuing to expand our EXPAREL program to additional providers.
- We're creating a helpful resource on our provider search tool to show providers who offer EXPAREL.

¹Denisco RC, Kenna GA, O'Neil MG, et al. Prevention of prescription opioid abuse: the role of the dentist. JADA. July 2011; 142 (7): 800–810. Available at: ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21719802. Accessed March 1, 2018.

²Volkow ND, McLellan TA, Cotto JH, et al. Characteristics of opioid prescriptions in 2009. JAMA. 2011; 305 (13): 1299–1301. Available at: jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/896134. Accessed March 1, 2018.

³Shah A, Hayes CJ, Martin BC. Characteristics of initial prescription episodes and likelihood of long-term opioid use — United States, 2006–2015. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. March 17, 2017; 66 (10): 265–269. Available at: cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6610a1.htm. Accessed April 27, 2018.

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Policy forms issued in Idaho and Oklahoma include: GR-9/GR-9N, GR-23 and/or GR-29/GR-29N.



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