



How Preventive Dentistry and Eye Care Can Save Money and Improve Lives

An Introduction to Oral and Ocular Care Coordination (O2C2)

O2C2: The Dental/Eye Care Connection

Guardian's O2C2 program helps to enhance the health of our members at risk for or diagnosed with diabetes. The key: helping to prevent acute complications. People who have diabetes are at greater risk for expensive medical complications, including periodontal disease and diabetic retinopathy,¹ the most frequent cause of new cases of preventable blindness in Americans aged 25 to 74.²

Through O2C2, we identify these members and coordinate safe, effective care. This includes regular screenings and preventive treatments that help to improve health outcomes and baselines for members in the program. Here's how:

- Early Detection
- Screening
- Care Coordination
- Outreach
- Preventive Treatment

Because we put the needs of these members first, we can help prevent related ailments and the exacerbation and progression of diabetes, thereby potentially reducing their medical costs—and the cost to the health plan.

Money, Time, Health: How O2C2 Saves

The cost of diabetes rose to \$327 billion in the U.S. in 2017—a 26 percent increase over the previous five years.³ That's why steps to prevent the disease's many complications are crucial for dental and eye care alike.

According to a recent study, the cost for periodontal care in the two years after a patient's diagnosis was about \$471. In years three and four, however, medical cost savings were \$1,799, resulting in a "net savings [of] \$1,328 over 2 years."⁴ The figures are even more impressive for ocular care: a savings of \$975 per member per year for following the recommended preventive ophthalmological care, "even if all costs of care are borne by the federal government."⁵



We're here to help.

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1 <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3271/6/4/104/pdf>, July 2018 .

2 <https://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/40/3/412>, March 2017.

3 <http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy/news-events/cost-of-diabetes.html>, January 2019.

4 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5347922>, April 2017.

5 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7956643>, accessed July 2019.

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