

## Free dental treatments for seniors – everything there is to know

The dental treatment reform for those aged 75+ was launched in February 2019: What dental treatments may seniors aged 75 or over receive at no cost? What dental treatments involve copayment? And what is the payment amount?

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The reform under which those aged 75+ receive free dental care (within the health basket of services) is great news for many, and may completely transform their quality of life, both for maintaining their health and in restoring their confidence and ability to continue with their everyday functioning.

The dental care reform for seniors has two stages:

In the first stage, which took effect on February 1, 2019, preventive and restorative dental treatments for those aged 75 and over were included in the health basket of services.

In the second stage, which took effect on October 1, 2019, subject to the Ministry of Health's guidelines, prosthetic dental treatments **for seniors aged 80 and over** were added to the health basket.

So what dental treatments may seniors aged 75 or over receive at no cost? What dental treatments involve copayment? And what is the payment amount?

## Restorative dental treatments in the health basket of services for those aged 75+

The treatment	Details	Copayment
First aid (emergency care)	An urgent treatment that cannot be postponed, such as pain relief, providing a medicinal prescription, or surgical care in acute inflammation conditions.	68 NIS
Periodic checkup by a dentist	Once a year including consultation and preparing a treatment plan	Exempt
Routine checkups and follow up	Within medical treatment	Exempt
Bitewing x-ray	Two bitewing x-rays within a periodic checkup	Exempt
Status x-ray set	Once every two years	34 NIS
Panoramic x-ray	Once every two years	34 NIS
Scaling (by dental hygienist)	Up to twice per calendar year	Exempt
Fluoride treatment	Application of fluoride gel on teeth once a year	17 NIS
Extraction	Including surgical extraction or separation of tooth roots	68 NIS

Root canal treatments or root canal retreatment		136 NIS
Root tip resection	Apicectomy	136 NIS
Restoration (filling)	Composite or amalgam restoration	34 NIS
Prefabricated post and core	Completing a tooth after root canal treatment or retreatment	34 NIS

## Comments

1. The copayment cost is subject to change from time to time according to Ministry of Health guidelines.
2. Each treatment is defined as a single treatment, even if it takes more than one session to complete it.
3. Transport of patients or providing treatments for elderly patients confined to their home or nursing homes is not the responsibility of healthcare organizations, except in the following cases:
  - A. Transport of complex nursing care patients for emergency treatments.
  - B. Transport of complex nursing care patients who are hospitalized for more than 3 months for prosthetic treatments.

## The second stage of the reform

In the second stage of the reform, which took effect on October 1, 2019, prosthetic dental treatments for patients aged 80+ were added to the health basket. These treatments include, but not limited to, preparation of dentures, lining of dentures, relining of dentures, renewal of denture base, root restorations under dentures, and fracture repairs.

### Prosthetic dental treatments in the health basket for those aged 80+

The treatment	Details	Copayment
Immediate / temporary denture	Preparation of an immediate denture, complete or partial (upper and lower), including measurement and fitting.	204 NIS
Partial denture per jaw	Not more than one denture every 4 years per jaw, except when just one molar is missing in a jaw (not including wisdom tooth), including laboratory fabrication, measurement and fitting.	306 NIS
Complete denture per jaw	Complete upper or lower denture, including measurement, fitting, laboratory fabrication. Preparation of a denture once every 7 years for each jaw.	306 NIS
Treatment session at the dentist for fitting of dentures	<b>First 4 sessions</b> – without copayment. Additional sessions – <b>up to 9 sessions</b> with copayment, at the most up to 9 sessions every 7 years from receipt of	34 NIS

made in the clinic and removal of pressure points	a complete denture, or every 4 years from receipt of a partial denture. <b>Sessions in excess of the 9 sessions require full payment.</b>	
Soft or hard lining of a complete denture	Laboratory-made soft lining or hard lining (made in a clinic or laboratory), up to twice (2 times) every 7 years from receipt of a complete denture. Soft or temporary lining (at the clinic) up to three times (3 times) every 7 years from receipt of a complete denture.	68 NIS
Renewal of denture base	Renewal and fitting of denture base at the clinic, up to once every 7 years from receipt of complete denture.	68 NIS
Repair of fractures and/or adding of teeth to denture	Up to once every 7 years from receipt of a complete denture, or once every 4 years from receipt of a partial denture.	34 NIS
Implants for lower denture	Installation of up to 2 implants for supporting a lower complete denture – only if possible without preparatory treatment (which is not included in this basket). A CBCT x-ray that is required for diagnostic purposes requires separate copayment of 34 NIS.	204 NIS for both implants

Connectors for denture on two implants	Replacement of ball or locator connectors – once every two years, if required	34 NIS
Rubber inserts for connectors	Replacement of rubber inserts of ball or locator connectors – once every six months if required.	34 NIS
Root cap	Laboratory restoration of a cut root under an implant.	102 NIS
Vestibular deepening	Surgical deepening of the area between the lip and gums for receiving dentures, once per jaw.	34 NIS
Alveoloplasty	Smoothing out the alveolar ridge under a denture.	34 NIS