



**Added Feature for All Groups - Third Dental Cleaning Option
Pregnant Women and Persons with Diabetes**

Gum disease may increase a woman's risk of having a pre-term delivery of a low birth-weight baby. Women with periodontal disease are at three to five times greater risk of preterm birth than those who are periodontally healthy. Researchers suspect that the bacteria that cause periodontal disease can hasten the production of labor-inducing signals that, in turn, cause premature labor.

Research also suggests that early prevention and treatment of gum disease may result in significantly improved outcomes for persons with diabetes. One study by the Journal of the American Dental Association, October, 2003 found that when diabetic patients' periodontal infections were treated, they experienced a marked improvement in their ability to manage their blood sugar.

Delta Dental of Arizona (DDAZ) is a proponent of preventive care. We are pleased to announce that as of January 1, 2007, we will be including a third dental cleaning to women who are in their third trimester of pregnancy or persons with diabetes on all of the plan designs offered by DDAZ. These additions to our current plan designs will not reflect in a premium increase and reinforces our commitment to the highest quality care for our subscribers. Self funded (Administrative Only Groups) can choose to have this added to their plan as well and funding evaluation and cost estimates will be provided.

The third dental cleaning option will be available on January 1, 2007. Qualified members choosing to add the option to their plan can register on-line on after January 1, 2007 by visiting www.deltadentalaz.com.

The goal at Delta Dental of Arizona is to provide employers with choices, freedom and resources to help manage the health of their employees and their employees' families. Should you have any questions regarding this enhanced benefit, feel free to call your Sales Representative or myself at the number listed below.

Please help us spread this exciting news to your clients.

Sincerely,

Gary B. Feldman
Delta Dental of Arizona
Vice President of Sales and Broker Relations
602-588-3615