

# Determining Orthodontic Benefits

Ever struggle to understand maximums when it comes to orthodontic benefits? If so, the following information may be helpful to you. This guide explains how orthodontic benefits are calculated, depending on the process that a group selects.

## Standard Process

Delta Dental’s standard process for determining orthodontic benefits is the “Balance as of” (BAO) calculation. “Balance As Of” means that any treatment started prior to the patient’s effective date with Delta Dental is not payable, and will be factored into the patient’s new Delta Dental orthodontic maximum.

In order to determine BAO, Delta Dental requests information from the orthodontic office, including:

- Procedure code(s)
- Total treatment fee
- Banding fee / date
- Monthly adjustment fee
- Length of treatment

Once Delta Dental receives this information, it uses the process in the chart to the right to determine BAO.

## Carry Forward

Some groups wish to “carry forward” orthodontic maximums when they change carriers. This means that costs associated with previous orthodontic treatments (covered by a past carrier) will be subtracted from the subscriber’s Delta Dental orthodontic lifetime maximum.

When a group elects to “carry forward” orthodontic benefits, it must provide Delta Dental with a file listing all orthodontic benefits used (under the previous carrier) prior to the group joining Delta Dental.

**A group may choose not to carry forward previous orthodontic maximums. In this case, no orthodontic benefit history is required and the standard process is used to determine benefits.**

**If a group elects to use Delta Dental’s standard process (BAO) in addition to the carry forward method, orthodontic benefits may be limited for subscribers who have used them in the past.**

Example of “Balance As Of” Calculation			
Charge	Amount	Date Paid	Description
<b>Total Treatment Cost</b>	\$4,000	N/A	The charges to the left were all incurred prior to the subscriber joining Delta Dental. These are subtracted from the total treatment cost when determining the BAO.
<b>Down Payment</b>	- \$500	8/16/09	
<b>September Monthly Payment</b>	- \$75	9/16/09	
<b>October Monthly Payment</b>	- \$75	10/16/09	
<b>November Monthly Payment</b>	- \$75	11/16/09	
<b>December Monthly Payment</b>	- \$75	12/16/09	
<b>Balance As Of (BAO) January 1, 2010:</b> <small>(The subscriber’s effective date with Delta Dental of Colorado)</small>	<b>\$3,200</b>		
<b>Subscriber’s Maximum Orthodontic Benefit:</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>		To calculate, multiply the BAO by the group’s orthodontic benefit percentage ( $\$3,200 \times 50\% = \$1,600$ ).

**Important Note:** Chart assumes the group’s orthodontic maximum is \$1,600 or more, and the group’s orthodontic benefit is 50%. Groups with a lower orthodontic maximum or a different orthodontic benefit percentage, will have a BAO based on the greater of:

- The orthodontic maximum
- Coinsurance percentage of the BAO on the subscriber’s effective date. (The benefit percentage used to calculate the subscriber’s orthodontic maximum depends on the group contract.)