

## United Concordia Provides New TDP Maternity Benefit



Beginning June 16, 2008, all pregnant TDP enrollees are eligible for a third routine dental cleaning in a 12 consecutive month period. This benefit is covered at 100% - there are no out-of-pocket costs.

This new benefit has been implemented in response to research showing that a pregnant woman's oral health can affect her overall health and the health of her unborn baby. Recent research suggests a link between periodontal disease and low-birthweight and premature babies.<sup>1</sup>

Changes in hormone levels due to pregnancy cause increased blood flow to the gingiva (gums), which can exaggerate the reaction to oral bacteria, causing tender, swollen and sensitive gingival (pregnancy gingivitis). Gingivitis usually starts around the second or third month of pregnancy and can become more serious through the eighth month.

Proper dental care and good oral hygiene before and during pregnancy are the primary tools to decrease your risk of pregnancy gingivitis. Talk to your physician and dentist to determine an appropriate diet and professional dental cleaning regimen, and be consistent with your preventive at-home care.

Take advantage of the third dental cleaning during your pregnancy for your health and your baby's health. Please ask your dentist to note your pregnancy on the claim form that is submitted to United Concordia for payment.

1. *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General*, 2000.
2. *American Academy of Periodontology*, 2003.