

Frequently Asked Questions About Coverage for Braces

Does NH Smiles cover braces?

Yes. NH Smiles pays for braces to treat severe handicapping malocclusions. NH Smiles also pays for braces that are needed to treat some medical conditions.

What is a “severe handicapping malocclusion”?

“Malocclusion” means a bad bite, caused by crooked or crowded teeth. Sometimes a bad bite is so severe that it can be a handicap because the child cannot chew or speak well. NH Smiles pays for braces to correct bad bites that are severe handicapping malocclusions.

Who decides if braces will be paid for?

The child needs to go to an orthodontist who is enrolled in NH Medicaid. The orthodontist is a dentist who specializes in braces. The orthodontist examines the child to see if the crooked or crowded teeth cause a severe handicapping malocclusion. If so, the orthodontist will take x-rays, models and pictures to send to NH Smiles. The orthodontist at NH Smiles measures the models and reviews the pictures to see if the crowding or crooked teeth cause a severe handicapping malocclusion. If so, braces will be covered.

How do I find an orthodontist to examine my child for braces?

Call Medicaid Client Services any Monday through Friday between 8:00AM and 4:30PM. The staff of Medicaid Client Services can give you names and phone numbers of dentists or orthodontists in your area. The phone number for Medicaid Client Services is **1-800-852-3345, Ext 4344**.

What happens if my child is approved for braces by NH Smiles?

NH Smiles will notify you and your orthodontist if braces are approved for payment. You will call the orthodontist right away to make an appointment to put on the braces within 60 days.

What if my child’s braces are denied coverage by NH Smiles?

You will receive a letter to tell you that braces are not covered for your child. The letter will tell you the reason for the decision. The letter will also tell you how you can ask for a hearing to appeal the decision.

If your child’s braces are not covered by NH Smiles because the bite is not a severe handicapping malocclusion, you may choose to pay for braces yourself. If you pay for braces you may go to any dentist or orthodontist for treatment.

