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WILL MY CHILD QUALIFY FOR THE STATE ORTHODONTIC PROGRAM?

The Severe Malocclusion Program will cover eligible children in need of orthodontic treatment (ages 12 - 18). Eligibility is dependent upon financial need as well as medical necessity. This program is designed to meet the orthodontic needs of children with severe handicapping conditions which clearly impact physical function rather than those children who have simple crowding or alignment problems.

There are several types of congenital craniofacial anomalies which severely affect dental occlusion and function. The most common of these is cleft lip/cleft palate. Nearly all of these children will require comprehensive orthodontic treatment as part of their overall rehabilitation.

There are also conditions that will be considered for approval based on severity and if they are causing problems with the physical function of eating, breathing, and/or speaking.

The State's guidelines only allow your dentist to refer your child to the state program if they meet at least one of the following conditions:

- Cleft lip/cleft palate anomalies
- Impacted teeth (teeth that are stuck under other teeth)
- Severe bite problems that cause documented eating, breathing, and/or speaking issues (documented by the child's speech therapist, ENT, or physician)
- Misplaced teeth that cause the gum tissue to be destroyed. (Ex. Torn gum tissue, or gum tissue with an open sore that will not heal because of a tooth that is digging into the gum)
- An index score of at least 30 on the HLD index scale. Your dentist can estimate your child's index score range.

If the dentist does not diagnose any of the above conditions, your child **CANNOT** be referred to the state program for an orthodontic consultation. Your child cannot be referred because of crowding or mal-aligned teeth.

If your dentist does not refer you to an orthodontist, you may still take your child to see an orthodontist at any time, however, Medicaid will not cover the visit or treatment without an approval from the State program.