



The Health Benefits of the Medicare Dental, Vision, and Hearing Bills for TX-28

A majority of beneficiaries do not have access to any dental, vision, or hearing services through Medicare. This coverage gap has significant consequences on the health of our nation's seniors. H.R. 4650, H.R. 4665, and H.R. 4618 help to close this gap by investing in these vital benefits.

The unmet health need for dental, vision, and hearing services is enormous among seniors.

- An estimated 11 million Medicare beneficiaries have trouble eating because of dental problems, but 30 percent of beneficiaries haven't seen a dentist in the last year.¹
- An estimated 20.5 million Medicare beneficiaries have vision problems, yet 43 percent of beneficiaries hadn't received an eye examination during the previous year.²
- Half of adults 60 and older have clinically meaningful hearing loss, and an estimated 73.5 million estimated to have hearing loss by 2060.³

Cost is a key reason Medicare beneficiaries don't seek out dental, vision, or hearing services.

Beneficiaries using such services on average spend hundreds of dollars out-of-pocket.⁴

Increasing access to dental, vision, and hearing services can improve seniors' quality of life and independence as well as reduce Medicare spending.⁵

In TX-28, Medicare does not provide coverage for..

Oral Exams

for about **76%** of beneficiaries

Eye Exams

for about **73%** of beneficiaries

Hearing Exams

for about **75%** of beneficiaries

Dental Extractions

for about **77%** of beneficiaries

Eyeglasses

for about **74%** of beneficiaries

Hearing Aids

for about **80%** of beneficiaries

Under an expansion of Medicare coverage for dental, vision, and hearing services in TX-28,

- About 88% of beneficiaries (92,400 people) stand to gain from adding a dental benefit
- About 74% of beneficiaries (78,200 people) stand to gain from adding a vision benefit
- About 92% of beneficiaries (97,200 people) stand to gain from adding a hearing benefit

Source: Ways and Means Committee staff analysis of Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services data

Note: Included in coverage refers to mandatory supplemental benefits (meaning without an additional premium) in standard Medicare Advantage offerings. This excludes Employer Group Health Plans, dual-eligible special needs plans, and Medicare, Medicaid plans. Outside of supplemental benefits, beneficiaries may have access to some dental, vision, and hearing services in limited circumstances (e.g. in connection to a Medicare-covered surgery). Data was crosswalked to 116th congressional boundaries.

See link for footnotes.