

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul McMurtry and Michael F. Rush

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act Requiring Coverage of Medically Necessary Oral and Dental Care for Head and Neck Cancer Survivor.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act Requiring Coverage of Medically Necessary Oral and Dental Care for Head and Neck Cancer Survivor.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section

3 17O, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

4 Section 17P. Any coverage offered by the commission to an active or retired employee of
5 the

6 commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage
7 for:

8 (a) necessary pre-cancer dental care, including preventative and restorative treatment to
9 the hard

10 and soft tissues of the oral cavity, fluoride treatments and trays, and medically necessary
11 dental

12 procedures, to reduce or eliminate the risk of infection or to treat tooth decay or tooth loss
13 in
14 enrollees.

15 (b) dental care that is required prior to the commencement of treatment for head and neck
16 cancer

17 including, but not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton
18 therapy,
19 and radiation therapy.

20 (c) post cancer necessary dental care, including preventative dental prophylaxis', scaling
21 and

22 root planing, quarterly cleanings, bi-annual assessments by a periodontist, fluoride
23 treatments

24 including trays, and medically necessary dental procedures to reduce or eliminate the risk
25 of

26 infection; or to treat tooth loss or decay directly or indirectly caused by head and neck
27 cancer
28 treatment.

29 (d) dental procedures required as a result of treatments for head and neck cancer
30 including, but

31 not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton therapy, and
32 radiation

33 therapy

34 (e) laboratory assessments, medications, treatments, evaluations, examinations, and
35 rehabilitation

36 necessary for head and neck cancer treatment and the restoration of function.

37 (f) patient education, medical devices, prostheses, obturators, dental implants,
38 rehabilitative

39 services necessary to restore, maintain, or improve, the whole or partial function related
40 to

41 eating, breathing, voice, speech, quality of life, social functioning and swallowing; and to

42 approximate the normal appearance of any abnormal structures that is affected by a head
43 and

44 neck cancer diagnosis and/or the treatment of head and neck cancer, or the side effects
45 resulting

46 from the treatment.

47 (g) restorative and rehabilitative care including but not limited to: medications,
48 restoration

49 procedures, and other medical interventions required to address impairments resulting
50 from head
51 and neck cancer or its treatment.

52 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
53 section

54 10J, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

55 Section 10K. The division shall provide coverage for:

56 (a) necessary pre-cancer dental care, including preventative and restorative treatment to

57 the hard

58 and soft tissues of the oral cavity, fluoride treatments and trays, and medically necessary

59 dental

60 procedures, to reduce or eliminate the risk of infection or to treat tooth decay or tooth loss

61 in

62 enrollees.

63 (b) dental care that is required prior to the commencement of treatment for head and neck

64 cancer

65 including, but not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton

66 therapy,

67 and radiation therapy.

68

69 (c) post cancer necessary dental care, including preventative dental prophylaxis', scaling

70 and

71 root planing, quarterly cleanings, bi-annual assessments by a periodontist, fluoride

72 treatments

73 including trays, and medically necessary dental procedures to reduce or eliminate the risk

74 of

75 infection; or to treat tooth loss or decay directly or indirectly caused by head and neck

76 cancer

77 treatment.

78 (d) dental procedures required as a result of treatments for head and neck cancer

79 including, but

80 not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton therapy, and

81 radiation

82 therapy.

83 (e) laboratory assessments, medications, treatments, evaluations, examinations, and

84 rehabilitation

85 necessary for head and neck cancer treatment and the restoration of function.

86 (f) patient education, medical devices, prostheses, obturators, dental implants,
87 rehabilitative
88 services necessary to restore, maintain, or improve, the whole or partial function related
89 to
90 eating, breathing, voice, speech, quality of life, social functioning and swallowing; and to
91 approximate the normal appearance of any abnormal structures that is affected by a head
92 and
93 neck cancer diagnosis and/or the treatment of head and neck cancer, or the side effects
94 resulting
95 from the treatment.

96 (g) restorative and rehabilitative care including but not limited to: medications,
97 restoration
98 procedures, and other medical interventions required to address impairments resulting
99 from head
100 and neck cancer or its treatment.

101 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
102 section

103 47II, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

104 Section 47JJ. A policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued,
105 delivered or
106 renewed within the commonwealth that provides medical expense coverage shall provide
107 coverage for:

108 (a) necessary pre-cancer dental care, including preventative and restorative treatment to
109 the hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity, fluoride treatments and trays, and medically necessary
110 dental
111 procedures, to reduce or eliminate the risk of infection or to treat tooth decay or tooth loss
112 in
113 enrollees.

114 (b) dental care that is required prior to the commencement of treatment for head and neck
115 cancer
116 including, but not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton
117 therapy,
118 and radiation therapy.

119 (c) post cancer necessary dental care, including preventative dental prophylaxis', scaling
120 and
121 root planing, quarterly cleanings, bi-annual assessments by a periodontist, fluoride
122 treatments

123 including trays, and medically necessary dental procedures to reduce or eliminate the risk
124 of
125 infection; or to treat tooth loss or decay directly or indirectly caused by head and neck
126 cancer
127 treatment.

128 (d) dental procedures required as a result of treatments for head and neck cancer
129 including, but
130 not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton therapy, and
131 radiation
132 therapy.

133 (e) laboratory assessments, medications, treatments, evaluations, examinations, and
134 rehabilitation
135 necessary for head and neck cancer treatment and the restoration of function.

136 (f) patient education, medical devices, prostheses, obturators, dental implants,
137 rehabilitative
138 services necessary to restore, maintain, or improve, the whole or partial function related
139 to
140 eating, breathing, voice, speech, quality of life, social functioning and swallowing; and to

141 approximate the normal appearance of any abnormal structures that is affected by a head
142 and
143 neck cancer diagnosis and/or the treatment of head and neck cancer, or the side effects
144 resulting
145 from the treatment.

146 (g) restorative and rehabilitative care including but not limited to: medications,
147 restoration
148 procedures, and other medical interventions required to address impairments resulting
149 from head
150 and neck cancer or its treatment.

151 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
152 section

153 8KK, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

154 Section 8LL. A contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or
155 group
156 hospital service plan that is delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall
157 provide
158 coverage for:

159 (a) necessary pre-cancer dental care, including preventative and restorative treatment to
160 the hard
161 and soft tissues of the oral cavity, fluoride treatments and trays, and medically necessary
162 dental
163 procedures, to reduce or eliminate the risk of infection or to treat tooth decay or tooth loss
164 in
165 enrollees.

166 (b) dental care that is required prior to the commencement of treatment for head and neck
167 cancer
168 including, but not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton
169 therapy,
170 and radiation therapy.

171 (c) post cancer necessary dental care, including preventative dental prophylaxis', scaling
172 and
173 root planing, quarterly cleanings, bi-annual assessments by a periodontist, fluoride
174 treatments
175 including trays, and medically necessary dental procedures to reduce or eliminate the risk
176 of
177 infection; or to treat tooth loss or decay directly or indirectly caused by head and neck
178 cancer

179 treatment.

180 (d) dental procedures required as a result of treatments for head and neck cancer

181 including, but

182 not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton therapy, and

183 radiation

184 therapy.

185 (e) laboratory assessments, medications, treatments, evaluations, examinations, and

186 rehabilitation

187 necessary for head and neck cancer treatment and the restoration of function.

188 (f) patient education, medical devices, prostheses, obturators, dental implants,

189 rehabilitative

190 services necessary to restore, maintain, or improve, the whole or partial function related

191 to

192 eating, breathing, voice, speech, quality of life, social functioning and swallowing; and to

193 approximate the normal appearance of any abnormal structures that is affected by a head

194 and

195 neck cancer diagnosis and/or the treatment of head and neck cancer, or the side effects

196 resulting

197 from the treatment.

198 (g) restorative and rehabilitative care including but not limited to: medications,
199 restoration
200 procedures, and other medical interventions required to address impairments resulting
201 from head
202 and neck cancer or its treatment.

203 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
204 section

205 4KK, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

206 Section 4LL. A subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
207 agreement

208 delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for:

209 (a) necessary pre-cancer dental care, including preventative and restorative treatment to
210 the hard

211 and soft tissues of the oral cavity, fluoride treatments and trays, and medically necessary
212 dental

213 procedures, to reduce or eliminate the risk of infection or to treat tooth decay or tooth loss
214 in

215 enrollees.

216 (b) dental care that is required prior to the commencement of treatment for head and neck
217 cancer

218 including, but not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton
219 therapy,
220 and radiation therapy.

221 (c) post cancer necessary dental care, including preventative dental prophylaxis', scaling
222 and

223 root planing, quarterly cleanings, bi-annual assessments by a periodontist, fluoride
224 treatments including trays, and medically necessary dental procedures to reduce or eliminate the
225 risk of infection; or to treat tooth loss or decay directly or indirectly caused by head and neck
226 cancer treatment.

227 (d) dental procedures required as a result of treatments for head and neck cancer
228 including, but

229 not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton therapy, and
230 radiation

231 therapy.

232 (e) laboratory assessments, medications, treatments, evaluations, examinations, and
233 rehabilitation

234 necessary for head and neck cancer treatment and the restoration of function.

235 (f) patient education, medical devices, prostheses, obturators, dental implants,
236 rehabilitative
237 services necessary to restore, maintain, or improve, the whole or partial function related
238 to
239 eating, breathing, voice, speech, quality of life, social functioning and swallowing; and to
240 approximate the normal appearance of any abnormal structures that is affected by a head
241 and
242 neck cancer diagnosis and/or the treatment of head and neck cancer, or the side effects
243 resulting
244 from the treatment.

245 (g) restorative and rehabilitative care including but not limited to: medications,
246 restoration
247 procedures, and other medical interventions required to address impairments resulting
248 from head
249 and neck cancer or its treatment.

250 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
251 section
252 4CC, as inserted by chapter 233 of the acts 2016, the following section:-

253 Section 4DD. An individual or group health maintenance contract shall provide coverage
254 for:

255 (a) necessary pre-cancer dental care, including preventative and restorative treatment to
256 the hard

257 and soft tissues of the oral cavity, fluoride treatments and trays, and medically necessary
258 dental

259 procedures, to reduce or eliminate the risk of infection or to treat tooth decay or tooth loss
260 in

261 enrollees.

262 (b) dental care that is required prior to the commencement of treatment for head and neck
263 cancer

264 including, but not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton
265 therapy,

266 and radiation therapy.

267 (c) post cancer necessary dental care, including preventative dental prophylaxis', scaling
268 and

269 root planing, quarterly cleanings, bi-annual assessments by a periodontist, fluoride
270 treatments

271 including trays, and medically necessary dental procedures to reduce or eliminate the risk
272 of

273 infection; or to treat tooth loss or decay directly or indirectly caused by head and neck
274 cancer
275 treatment.

276 (d) dental procedures required as a result of treatments for head and neck cancer
277 including, but

278 not limited to, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, biological therapy, proton therapy, and
279 radiation
280 therapy.

281 (e) laboratory assessments, medications, treatments, evaluations, examinations, and
282 rehabilitation

283 necessary for head and neck cancer treatment and the restoration of function.

284 (f) patient education, medical devices, prostheses, obturators, dental implants,
285 rehabilitative

286 services necessary to restore, maintain, or improve, the whole or partial function related
287 to

288 eating, breathing, voice, speech, quality of life, social functioning and swallowing; and to

289 approximate the normal appearance of any abnormal structures that is affected by a head
290 and

291 neck cancer diagnosis and/or the treatment of head and neck cancer, or the side effects
292 resulting

293 from the treatment.

294 (g) restorative and rehabilitative care including but not limited to: medications,
295 restoration

296 procedures, and other medical interventions required to address impairments resulting
297 from head

298 and neck cancer or its treatment.