STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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August 13, 1993

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

Letter No.: 93-57

MEDI-CAL ADULT DENTAL BENEFITS

Effective August 15, 1993, dental services to adults age 21 and older will not be provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries unless these dental services are medically necessary. Medically necessary is defined as reasonable and necessary to protect life, to prevent illness or significant disability, or to alleviate severe pain. Affected services are gum treatment, root canals, laboratory processed crowns, and full and partial dentures, including relines. Full and partial dentures, including relines, may also be provided to persons if required for employment.

For a Medi-Cal eligible of a managed care plan which provides dental services, the effective date of these changes may vary. These changes will not affect a Medi-Cal eligible under 21 or Medi-Cal eligibles in nursing facilities.

Specific information regarding the above changes will be provided upon request and will be sent to each dentist participating in the program. The individual managed care plans may be contacted for additional information. Toll-free beneficiary telephone lines are available to assist each Medi-Cal eligible in locating a participating dentist (1-800-322-6384). Participating dentists will be able to obtain information regarding these changes by calling toll-free provider lines (1-800-423-0507).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

CHANGE IN DENTAL BENEFITS

This is to notify you of a change in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14132 that may affect your Medi-Cal dental coverage.

Effective August 15, 1993, the following dental services to adults age 21 and older will not be provided unless they are medically necessary: gum treatment, root canals, laboratory processed crowns, and full and partial dentures, including relines. Full and partial dentures, including relines, may also be provided to persons if required for employment.

If you are a member of a managed care plan which provides dental services, the effective date of these changes may vary. If you are under age 21 or a resident in a nursing facility, these changes will not affect you.

Specific information regarding the above changes to the Medi-Cal dental program will be sent to each dentist participating in the program who can individualize your best treatment plan. Toll free beneficiary telephone lines are available to assist you in locating a participating dentist (1-800-322-6384).

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CAMBIO EN LOS BENEFICIOS DENTALES

La presente es para notificarle de un cambio en la sección 14132 del Código de Bienestar e Insituciones, que pudiera afectar su cobertura dental del Medi-Cal.

A partir del 15 de agosto de 1993, no se proporcionarán los siguientes servicios dentales a adultos de 21 años de edad o mayores, a menos que sean médicamente necesarios: tratamiento de las encías, endodoncia (root canals), coronas procesadas en un laboratorio, y dentaduras completas y parciales, incluyendo recubrimientos (relines). Es posible que se autoricen dentaduras completas y parciales, incluyendo recubrimientos si se requieren para el empleo.

Si usted es miembro de un plan de la salud administrado (managed care plan) el cual proporciona servicios dentales, es posible que varíe la fecha efectiva de estos cambios. Si usted es menor de 21 años o es residente en un establecimiento de cuidado médico continuo no intenso, estos cambios no le afectarán.

Se enviará información específica relativa a los cambios al programa dental de Medi-Cal mencionados arriba, a cada dentista que participe en el programa, quien puede individualizar su mejor plan de tratamiento. Hay a la disposición, números telefónicos gratuitos para ayudarle a localizar un dentista que participe (1-800-322-6384).