

DATE: June 29, 2026

ALL PLAN LETTER 26-007
SUPERSEDES ALL PLAN LETTER 25-009

TO: ALL MEDI-CAL DENTAL MANAGED CARE PLANS

SUBJECT: ORAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR DENTAL MANAGED CARE
CONTRACTS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Dental All Plan Letter (APL) is for the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide the Medi-Cal Dental Managed Care plans (Dental MCPs) with information and guidance regarding the new Performance Measures for the DHCS Dental MCP contracts¹ that is effective July 1, 2025. This APL supersedes APL 25-009.

BACKGROUND:

Through strengthened partnerships with Dental MCPs, DHCS aims to improve access to timely and high-quality dental services, particularly for underserved populations. The Performance Measures are intended to focus the Medi-Cal dental program on ensuring that Californians receive the preventative and proactive care they need to lead healthier lives. As part of this broader effort, DHCS is implementing changes to the Dental MCP Performance Measures.

On October 10, 2025, DHCS released APL 25-009. This APL supersedes APL 25-009, to align with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Dental Quality Alliance (DQA)², California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), and/or national standards. The updated requirements will enhance accountability, transparency, and performance among Dental MCPs, ultimately driving improved oral health outcomes across the state.

POLICY:

¹ The Dental Managed Care Boilerplate contract can be found here:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Documents/MDSD/DMC-Boilerplate-Contract-2025.pdf>

² The DQA technical specifications can be found here:

<https://www.ada.org/resources/research/dental-quality-alliance/dqa-dental-quality-measures>

Please refer to Attachment A for all updated Performance Measures and associated withhold percentages, which are effective July 1, 2025.

DHCS added the following measure as an alternative measure:

- Children: Oral Evaluation (OEV)

This alternative measure can be substituted for any Performance Measure metric for purposes of the Performance Withhold. All measures including this measure are still required to be reported.

DHCS also removed the following measures:

- Adults Primary Care Provider's Office Follow Up Services
- Children Fluoride Application Within Reporting Year in Medical Office

DHCS also updated the following technical specifications for the measures:

- Children (Ages 0-20): Annual Dental Visits (ADV)
- Children (Ages Under 21): Use of Preventive Services
- Children (by Age 10): Sealant Receipt on Permanent First Molars
- Children (by Age 15): Sealant Receipt on Permanent Second Molars
- Children (Ages 0-6): Caries Risk Documentation and Education Bundle
- Adults (Ages 21+): Annual Dental Visits (ADV)
- Adults (Ages 21+): Use of Preventive Services
- Children (Ages 1-20): Fluoride Applications within Reporting Year
- Children (Ages 1-20): Care Continuity for Two or More Consecutive Years
- Children (Ages 0-20): Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Caries-Related Diagnoses (Under Threshold)
- Children (Ages 0-20): Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Caries-Related Diagnoses Follow-Up Services
- Adults (Ages 21+): At least one Fluoride Applications within Reporting Year
- Children (Ages 6 months-5 years): Dental Office Visit Following Medical Preventive Service Visit
- Adults (Ages 21+): Care Continuity for Two or More Consecutive Years
- Adults (Ages 18+): Emergency Department (ED) Visits (Under Threshold)
- Adults (18+): Emergency Department (ED) Visits Follow-Up Services

REQUIREMENTS:

If the requirements contained in this APL, including any updates or revisions to this APL, necessitate a change in a Dental MCP's contractually required policies and procedures (P&Ps), the plan must submit its updated P&Ps with and without Track Changes to

DHCS' Medi-Cal Dental Services Division (MDSD) at dmcdeliverables@dhcs.ca.gov within 90 days of the release of this APL.

If a Dental MCP determines that no P&P changes are necessary, the Dental MCP must submit an email confirmation to dmcdeliverables@dhcs.ca.gov within 10 days of the release of this APL, stating that the Dental MCP's P&Ps have been reviewed and no changes are necessary. The email confirmation must include the title of this APL as well as the applicable APL release date in the subject line.

Dental MCPs are responsible for ensuring that their Subcontractors, Network Providers, and Downstream Contractors comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, contract requirements, and other DHCS guidance, including APLs and Policy Letters.

These requirements must be communicated by each Dental MCP to all Subcontractors, Network Providers, and Downstream Contractors. DHCS may impose Corrective Action Plans (CAPs), as well as administrative and/or monetary sanctions for non-compliance. Dental MCPs should review their Network Provider, Subcontractor, and Downstream Subcontractor Agreements, to ensure compliance with this APL. For additional information regarding Liquidated Damages, administrative and monetary sanctions, the Dental MC Contract and APL 22-009³, and any superseding APLs on this topic. Any failure to meet the requirements of this APL may result in a CAP and subsequent sanctions.

If you have any questions regarding this APL, please contact the Medi-Cal Dental Services Division, at dmcdeliverables@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Dana Durham
Chief, Medi-Cal Dental Services Division
Department of Health Care Services

³ APL 22-009 Enforcement Actions: Administrative and Monetary Sanctions can be found here: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Documents/APL-22-009.pdf>

APL 26-007

Page 2

June 29, 2026

Enclosures:

- Attachment A: Performance Measures and Benchmarks
- Dental Managed Care Performance Measures reporting template