

MEDI-CAL DENTAL COVERAGE CHANGES



Date: March 11, 2026

BACKGROUND:

Medi-Cal coverage is changing because of a new California law. **Starting July 1, 2026**, Medi-Cal will no longer cover dental services, except in emergency situations, for individuals aged 19 and older who do not qualify for federal full-scope Medi-Cal based on their immigration status. Members who are pregnant and up to one year after the pregnancy ends, or under age 26 and who were in foster care on their 18th birthday, will continue to receive dental services. Members who became eligible for Medi-Cal before January 1, 2026, can use their full dental benefits until June 30, 2026. Starting on July 1, 2026, their coverage will be called full-scope Medi-Cal with no dental. **Full-scope Medi-Cal with no dental includes all current Medi-Cal benefits except dental services. Members with this coverage remain eligible for emergency dental services.**

References:

Notices: [Medi-Cal Dental Benefit Changes - Notice](#)

FAQ: [Medi-Cal Dental Benefit Changes Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Member	Agent
Why is this change happening?	Based on the 2025-26 May Revision, starting July 1, 2026, Medi-Cal will stop covering dental services for some adult members, except for emergencies. The change only affects Medi-Cal members who are aged 19 and older, and do not qualify for federal full-scope Medi-Cal based on their immigration status.
What is changing with my Medi-Cal coverage in 2026?	Starting July 1, 2026, Medi-Cal will no longer cover dental services except in emergency situations. Your coverage will be called full scope Medi-Cal with no dental , which includes all current services <i>except</i> for dental care —only emergency dental services will be covered.

Member	Agent
<p>What happens if I am disenrolled from my Dental Managed Care Plan?</p>	<p>If you are disenrolled and not eligible for federal full scope Medi-Cal, your dental benefits depend on your age, pregnancy status, and whether you are a former foster youth.</p> <p>Members aged 19 and older and are not pregnant or postpartum or are not former foster youth will only receive care for dental emergencies from any fee-for-service Medi-Cal Dental provider.</p> <p>Members who are aged 19 and older who are pregnant or postpartum are eligible for full scope dental services from any fee-for-service Medi-Cal Dental provider.</p> <p>Former foster youth under age 26 who were in foster care on their 18th birthday are eligible to receive full-scope dental services from any fee-for-service Medi-Cal Dental provider.</p> <p>To learn more and find a dentist, go to SmileCalifornia.org.</p>
<p>Will I lose my Medi-Cal coverage because of this change?</p>	<p>No. Your eligibility will continue without interruption as long as you remain eligible for Medi-Cal. If you do not qualify for federal full-scope Medi-Cal, your dental services are removed unless you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant (including up to one year after the pregnancy ends), • Under age 19, or • Under age 26 and were in foster care on your 18th birthday.
<p>Can I still use my dental benefits before July 1, 2026?</p>	<p>Yes. You may continue using your dental services until June 30, 2026.</p>

Member	Agent
<p>What happens if I am in the process of receiving dental treatment when the change goes into effect?</p>	<p>If you are getting dental care now and you are in the process of receiving a dental treatment when the changes goes into effect, you will not be able to proceed with treatment unless it's an emergency. We encourage you to seek and complete any necessary treatments before July 1, 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>What services are still covered under full scope Medi-Cal with no dental?</p>	<p>You'll still continue to receive emergency services as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bleeding that does not stop • Painful swelling in or around your mouth • A toothache or jaw pain • Injuries to your face or jawbone • Infections in your gums or teeth with pain or swelling • After surgery care (such as bandage changes or stitch removal) • A broken or knocked out tooth • Cutting or fixing wires in braces that hurt your checks or gums • To learn more about Medi-Cal benefits, go to https://bit.ly/medi-cal-ehb-benefits.
<p>Will pregnant members still get dental coverage?</p>	<p>Yes. If you are pregnant or within one year after the pregnancy ends, you will continue to receive full scope Medi-Cal, which includes dental services, during your pregnancy and up to one year after the pregnancy ends.</p>
<p>If I am a foster child, foster youth, or former foster youth under age 26 who was in foster care on my 18th birthday, can I stay in my Medi-Cal Dental Plan (Dental Managed Care Plan)?</p>	<p>No. If you are 19 or older, you will leave your Medi-Cal Dental Plan (Dental Managed Care Plan) and go to Medi-Cal Dental Fee-for-Service. You will still have dental coverage.</p> <p>To learn more and find a dentist, go to: SmileCalifornia.org.</p>

Member	Agent
<p>Where can I learn more about Medi-Cal eligibility or get help?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For general questions, call the Medi-Cal Help Line Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except on State holidays) at 1-800-541-5555. The call is free. • For help with managed care plan questions, call the Medi-Cal Ombudsman Office. They help members understand their benefits and rights. They are open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except on State holidays). Call 1-888-452-8609 (TTY: 711 for California State Relay). The call is free. • To find a Medi-Cal eligibility office near you, go to www.DHCS.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx. • Call Medi-Cal Health Care Options (HCO) for help with Medi-Cal health and dental plan choices. Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1-800-430-4263 (TTY: 1-800-430-7077). The call is free. Or go to Medi-Cal HCO at www.healthcareoptions.dhcs.ca.gov. • For questions about your dental plan, call your Medi-Cal Dental Plan. The phone number is on the back of your Medi-Cal Dental Plan card. The call is free. • For questions regarding changes to the scope of Medi-Cal coverage based on immigration status, email ImmigrationPolicy@dhcs.ca.gov. • To learn more about Medi-Cal changes go to: https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Medi-Cal/Pages/changes.aspx. • To learn more about dental services, go to the Smile, California website at https://smilecalifornia.org/.

Member	Agent
I have additional questions about my dental coverage, who can I speak with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You may call: Medi-Cal dental service center Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except State holidays) at 1-800-322-6384. The call is free.• You may also go to the Smile, California website at https://smilecalifornia.org• For questions about your dental plan, call your Medi-Cal Dental Plan. The phone number is on the back of your Medi-Cal Dental Plan card.