

# **2022 MEDI-CAL DENTAL GENERAL ANESTHESIA REPORT**

**DECEMBER 2023**

## SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 14132.915(a)(3)(F) and (j)(3), general anesthesia (GA) utilization is based on Medi-Cal members who required and received GA services for dental procedures through Medi-Cal dental and medical delivery systems. Medi-Cal dental is administered through two delivery systems – Fee-for-Service (FFS) and Dental Managed Care (DMC). A Medi-Cal member can receive GA either through a dental office visit for an authorized dental procedure that requires GA and is billed through dental claims, or through a hospital visit for emergency room, inpatient, and outpatient dental services that require GA and are billed through medical claims. This report captures GA requests and utilization for Medi-Cal members whose provider's oral health treatment planning included approved Treatment Authorization Requests (TARs) for GA in dental offices, during Calendar Year (CY) 2022 (January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022). Members who received GA are captured by dates of service in CY 2022 in both dental office and hospital settings and sorted by dental delivery system and age group: children ages 0-20 and adults aged 21 and older.

GA services billed through dental and medical claims are identified by the Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes outlined below. Medi-Cal providers have six (6) months from the TAR approval date to render the service and one year from the date of service to submit the claim to Medi-Cal for reimbursement. Therefore, the number of TARs approved is higher than the number of services rendered for the same period, as time is needed to render services and process claims for payment.

CDT Codes: D9222 and D9223 are used to identify GA services in dental offices. D9222 covers the first 30 minutes of GA and D9223 is for the subsequent 15-minute intervals.

CPT Codes: 00170 and 41899 are used to identify GA services in medical claims. CPT 00170 is the anesthesia on mouth for CDT procedures (D0100-D9999) and CPT 41899 is for dental surgery.

### **CY 2022 General Anesthesia Results**

For both children and adult age groups combined, the number of TARs for GA have increased by 14.22% in FFS and 4.65% in DMC. This is likely driven and attributable to higher overall utilization. GA services in dental offices increased by 6.72% in FFS and 1.34% in DMC. GA Utilization in a hospital setting decreased by 12.17% in FFS and increased by 40.17% in DMC.

Number of Members	FFS CY21	FFS CY22	Percent Change	FFS CY21	FFS CY22	Percent Change
	Children	Children		Adults	Adults	
	(Age 0-20)	(Age 0-20)		(Age 21+)	(Age 21+)	
Approved TARs for GA	76,937	83,730	9%	33,234	42,105	27%
Received GA in a Dental Office	50,373	53,607	6%	18,807	20,220	8%
Received GA in a Hospital	5,266	4,521	-14%	692	712	3%

**Data Source:** DHCS Dental Fiscal Intermediary Data Warehouse and DMC Annual Reports as of November 2023 for dental TARs approved in CY 2022 and claims with date of service CY 2022. DHCS MIS/DSS Data Warehouse as of November 2023 for medical claims with date of service CY 2022.

Number of Members	DMC CY21	DMC CY22	Percent Change	DMC CY21	DMC CY22	Percent Change
	Children	Children		Adults	Adults	
	(Age 0-20)	(Age 0-20)		(Age 21+)	(Age 21+)	
Approved TARs for GA	3,922	4,199	7%	1,538	1,515	-1%
Received GA in a Dental Office	3,335	3,446	3%	1,068	1,016	-5%
Received GA in a Hospital	97	140	44%	20	24	20%

**Data Source:** DHCS Dental Fiscal Intermediary Data Warehouse and DMC Annual Reports as of November 2023 for dental TARs approved in CY 2022 and claims with date of service CY 2022. DHCS MIS/DSS Data Warehouse as of November 2023 for medical claims with date of service CY 2022.