

BENEFICIARY DENTAL EXCEPTION (BDE)

October 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has completed this report in compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section [14089.09](#) (c) regarding Medi-Cal members who have requested the Beneficiary Dental Exception (BDE) process. Information regarding the BDE process can be found on the Medi-Cal dental website: [Beneficiary Dental Exception](#), and is available to Medi-Cal DMC members in Sacramento County to ensure timely access to services through their dental managed care plan. Upon receiving a BDE request, DHCS works with the DMC plans on behalf of the member to schedule an appropriate appointment within specified timeframes, based on the member's needs. If no such appointment is secured, members may request to opt out of Medi-Cal DMC and move into Medi-Cal Dental FFS where the member may select a dental FFS provider.

In accordance with reporting requirements in Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14048.09, this monthly report reflects actual BDE requests from members to be exempted from receiving services through the dental managed care delivery system. Non-BDE requests received through the BDE phone line and on the BDE form but not actually requesting the BDE process will no longer be reported. In addition, BDE reports will be posted monthly only. This report includes BDE requests received in the reporting month, updates to BDE requests received in the previous month, and 2023 vs. 2025 summary. Please note, there is no BDE reporting from December 2023 through June 2025 due to the Department's parity evaluation of DMC plans. During this time, members were able to request to transition from DMC to FFS and were not required to submit a Beneficiary Dental Exception request until the start of the new contracts with DMC plans, which were implemented on July 1, 2025.

DHCS' outcomes are reported as:

- *Successful* - member was able to get an appointment and seen by a DMC provider.
- *Unsuccessful* - member was not able to get an appointment and was granted exception to FFS.

- *Member Non-Responsive* - member was contacted and did not respond or offered an appointment with a DMC provider but did not accept the offer or attend the appointment.

Timely access requirements for appointment timeframes per the [DMC contract](#) are as follows and reported as type of visit:

- Emergency – 24 hours
- Urgent – 72 hours (3 days)
- Routine – 4 weeks
- Specialist – 30 days from authorized request

BDE REQUESTS RECEIVED

A total of six (6) requests were received during October 2025. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of the requests by method of submission.

Figure 1: October 2025 – Counts of BDE Requests by Submission Method

Count of BDE Requests		
Submission Method	Counts	Percentage
By Phone Call	2	33%
By Mail/Fax/Email	4	67%
Total	6	100%

Figure 2 shows BDE requests received in October 2025 by type of visit and delivery system. One (1) request was closed, and five (5) requests are in progress with an appointment scheduled with a DMC provider in the next month.

Figure 2: BDE Requests Received in October 2025 by Type of Visit

BDE Type of Visit	DMC Plan			Age Group		Total
	CDN	Health Net	Liberty	Adults	Children	
Emergency	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urgent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Routine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Specialist	2	2	2	6	0	6
In Progress	2	1	2	5	0	5
Closed	0	1	0	1	0	1
Total BDE	2	2	2	6	0	6

BDE REQUESTS CLOSED

Figure 3 breaks down each closed case by service provided to the members, timely access (by business day), and outcomes. Four (4) BDE requests were closed in October. Three (3) of those requests were received in September and one (1) was received in October. Three (3) of those requests were successfully seen and treated by a dentist. One (1) request was closed and classified as non-responsive.

Figure 3: BDE Requests Closed in October 2025

Type of Visit	Adult/ Child	Service Provided	Timely Access	DMC Plan	Outcome
Routine	Adult	Exam	7 Days	Health Net	<i>Successful</i>
Specialist	Adult	Exam	22 Days	Liberty	<i>Successful</i>
Routine	Adult	Exam and X-ray	4 Days	Liberty	<i>Successful</i>
Specialist	Adult	N/A	N/A	Health Net	Member Non- Responsive

BDE REQUESTS RECEIVED IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH

Figure 4 shows an update on the BDE requests received in September 2025. All three (3) requests received in September are now closed.

Figure 4: Updated BDE Requests Received in the Previous Reporting Month

BDE Type of Visit	DMC Plan			Age Group		Total
	Access	Health Net	Liberty	Adults	Children	
Emergency	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urgent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Routine	0	1	1	2	0	2
Specialist	0	0	1	1	0	1
In Progress	0	0	0	0	0	0
Closed	0	1	2	3	0	3
Total BDE	0	1	2	3	0	3

2023 vs. 2025 Comparison

Figure 5 shows comparison of BDE requests received monthly in 2023 versus 2025. Due to the Department's parity evaluation, there is no data from 2024. The total BDE requests received in October 2025 decreased by nineteen (19) when compared to October 2023.

Figure 5: 2023 vs. 2025 Total BDE Monthly Incoming Requests

