

DATE: July 7, 2026

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information

Letter No.: 26-18

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF NON-EMERGENCY DENTAL DELAYED IN CALIFORNIA  
STATE BUDGET

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to inform counties that the proposed elimination of non-emergency dental benefits for Medi-Cal members aged 19 and older who are no longer eligible for federally funded full scope Medi-Cal has been delayed to July 1, 2027, as outlined in Senate Bill 164 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 27, Statutes of 2026).

### **Background**

Assembly Bill 116 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 21, Statutes of 2025), the 2025-26 Budget Health Omnibus bill proposed no sooner than July 1, 2026, Medi-Cal would no longer cover dental services for adult members aged 19 and older who are no longer eligible for federally funded full scope Medi-Cal benefits, except for emergencies.

On June 29, 2026, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the California 2026-27 state budget. The proposed elimination of non-emergency dental benefits has been delayed to July 1, 2027. Notices of Action about dental changes have been deactivated in the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS). Additional guidance regarding the dental changes planned for July 1, 2027, will be provided in a future letter.

Due to the changes in the 2026-2027 California State Budget, MEDIL I 26-17 is now obsolete.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Medi-Cal Eligibility Division (MCED) Policy inbox at [MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MCED-Policy@dhcs.ca.gov).

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Sincerely,

Sarah Crow, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division  
Department of Health Care Services