



March 31, 2015

DHCS Waiver Renewal

Attn: Mari Cantwell

PO Box 997413, MS 0000

Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

Email: WaiverRenewal@dhcs.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Cantwell,

On behalf of our more than 26,000 member dentists throughout the state, the California Dental Association (CDA) extends our appreciation to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for its efforts to improve the health of Californians through the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver Renewal.

Upon review of the Medi-Cal 2020: Key Concepts for Renewal document, we applaud the department's interest in increasing provider participation in Medi-Cal's fee for service dental program through a targeted incentive program to expand access to oral health services and improve utilization of preventive services. As you know, access to dental care is at a crisis point in California with almost half of the counties in the state lacking active Medi-Cal dental providers due to the low reimbursement rates. This has resulted in delayed care or patients seeking treatment in more expensive settings such as the emergency room. While the waiver renewal does not currently address the state's existing Denti-Cal payment structure for all dental procedures, we believe creating incentives to expand provider participation and increasing access to preventive services are important first steps toward improving the oral health of Californians.

CDA looks forward to working with the department in developing the necessary provider metrics for a fully funded, comprehensive and robust provider incentive program that will increase timely access to care and utilization of services for Denti-Cal beneficiaries. We recognize there is a significant amount of detail that needs to be worked out in a short amount of time. CDA stands ready to dive into these issues as key partner of the department to ensure successful implementation of the Medi-Cal 2020 waiver.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Shoop", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

California Dental Association

1201 K Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

916.443.0505
800.232.7645
916.443.2943 fax

cda.org

Nicette Short

Director, Public Policy