



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services
Medi-Cal Children’s Health Advisory Panel



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Dental Updates

Performance Measures:

As mentioned in the last MCHAP meeting in which dental staff attended, the fee-for-service performance measures required by Welfare and Institution Code 14132.915 are currently posted on the Denti-Cal website and are available through the following link:

- http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/WSI/ManagedCare.jsp?fname=FFS_perf_meas

The law requires the Department to post annual performance measure reporting every October. The Department will be posting performance measure reporting from Calendar Year 2014 in October 2015.

The California State Auditor’s (CSA) office also recommended establishing beneficiary utilization criteria and provider participation criteria in their December 2014 report of the program. In April 2015, DHCS organized two webinars to present proposed dental measures and solicit feedback from the stakeholder community. Through the collaborative effort, DHCS has developed dental measures that will increase the Medi-Cal Dental Program’s monitoring capabilities and assist DHCS to establish mitigation strategies that improve access and utilization of dental care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. DHCS will be sharing the finalized beneficiary utilization and provider participation performance measures with the stakeholder community in May 2015.

Beneficiary Education:

DHCS has undertaken several initiatives aimed at improving the utilization of dental services for children, including but not limited to:

- DHCS is currently working with the Medi-Cal Dental Program fiscal intermediary to finalize a dental outreach and education program plan that will guide outreach activities for the remainder of the 2015 calendar year;
- Ensuring information regarding dental benefits is available through county resources and BIC inserts;
- Making mobile vans available to beneficiary populations with limited access; and
- Participating in the Oral Health Learning Collaborative and promoting best practices for beneficiary utilization throughout program operations.

Efforts Regarding Rates:

- DHCS is currently working to complete the annual reimbursement rate study required by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 14079 by July 2015, which will further inform the Department in assessing the adequacy of the dental reimbursement rates.
- The Department is continuing to work on the preparation of a thorough analysis of access to care and the adequacy of the rates which requires extraction from a wide array of data sources and is a highly resource-intensive assignment. This deadline of July 2015 was chosen based on the need to ensure a thorough assessment is completed, and the Department is on target to meet this deadline.

- As the review is currently in process it will not be completed in time to be used as a resource in the current budget process; however, the Department will ensure that the results of the review are available for use in future budget processes such as the November 2015 Estimate.
- The findings of the rate review and implementation of any such changes will be subject to approval within the Administration, the Legislature, and with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for purposes of receiving federal reimbursement while ensuring the proper and efficient administration of the program.