

# **BENEFICIARY DENTAL EXCEPTION (BDE)**

January 2026

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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, Dental MCP representative will contact the member within three (3) business days to assist the member. Dental MCPs works closely with members to schedule an appropriate appointment within specified time frames and based on the member's identified 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 2025 vs. 2026 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 three (3) requests were received during January 2026. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of the requests by method of submission.

**Figure 1: January 2026 – Counts of BDE Requests by Submission Method**

Count of BDE Requests		
Submission Method	Counts	Percentage
By Phone Call	2	67%
By Mail/Fax/Email	1	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure 2 shows BDE requests received in January 2026 by type of visit and delivery system. Two (2) requests were closed, and one (1) request is in progress with an appointment scheduled with a DMC provider in the future month.

**Figure 2: BDE Requests Received in January 2026 by Type of Visit**

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

### **BDE REQUESTS CLOSED**

Figure 3 breaks down each closed case by service provided to the members, timely access (by business day), and outcomes. Two (2) BDE requests closed in January. One (1) case was successfully seen and treated by a dentist, while one (1) request was closed and classified as member non-responsive.

**Figure 3: BDE Requests Closed in January 2026**

Type of Visit	Adult/Child	Service Provided	Timely Access	DMC Plan	Outcome
Urgent	Child	Exam	3	CDN	<i>Successful</i>
Emergency	Adult	N/A	N/A	CDN	Member non-responsive

## BDE REQUESTS RECEIVED IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH

Figure 4 shows an update on the BDE requests received in December 2025. All two (2) requests received in December were closed within the same month.

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

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

### **2025 vs. 2026 Comparison**

Figure 5 shows comparison of BDE requests received monthly in 2025 verses 2026. Due to the Department’s parity evaluation, there is no data from January 2025 to compare to January 2026. DHCS conducted a parity evaluation to assess the performance (utilization) of Sacramento County DMC plans compared to the statewide dental FFS delivery system. Based on evaluation, members were enrolled in DMC plans have the option to enroll in FFS beginning in December 2023 until the start of the new contract with DMC plans, which were implemented on July 1, 2025. Consequently, starting December 2023, members were not required to submit a Beneficiary Dental Exception to transition from DMC to FFS, which resulted in no reporting for BDE December 2023 through June 2025.

**Figure 5: 2025 vs. 2026 Total BDE Monthly Incoming Requests**

