



Dental Benefits for Pregnant Women

Help Get The Word Out!

Timeline of changes impacting Denti-Cal coverage (most recent events at the top):

- **2010 May** - Denti-Cal issued a replacement provider bulletin, Benefits for Pregnant and Post-Partum Women, includes 21 pregnancy-related benefits, for more information see, http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/provsrvcs/bulletins/Volume_26_Number_11.pdf
- **2010 February** – Oral Health During Pregnancy and Early Childhood: Evidence-based Guidelines for Health Professionals. The guidelines resulted from a convening of experts in the field that were brought together by The California Dental Association Foundation, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District IX (ACOG District IX). The guidelines, substantiate the relationship between health and oral health status, and promote the importance and safety of dental care during pregnancy. http://www.cdafoundation.org/learn/perinatal_oral_health
- **2009 July 1st** – Most adult dental services are eliminated. Some dental services continue to be reimbursed to beneficiaries 21 years of age and older as mandated by federal law. These services are known as Federally Required Adult Dental Services (FRADS), for a complete list of FRADS see http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/provsrvcs/bulletins/Volume_25_Number_22.pdf.
- **2005 October 7th**, SB 377 (Ortiz) was signed into law, requiring the immediate implementation of 10 preventive dental benefits for *ALL* pregnant women with Limited scope, or Full scope or women with Presumptive Eligibility Medi-Cal.

Why are preventive dental benefits so important for pregnant and postpartum women?

- These benefits were added because of recent scientific evidence showing an association between periodontal disease in pregnant women and adverse birth outcomes. The benefits may help prevent preterm delivery – the leading cause of death in the first month of life.
- The American Dental Association recommends that pregnant women see a dentist regularly for oral exams and professional teeth cleanings. Maintaining good oral health during pregnancy, notes the Association, can be critical to the overall health of expectant mothers and their babies.
- A list of the 21 benefits for pregnant women with Denti-Cal coverage, for more information see: http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/provsrvcs/bulletins/Volume_26_Number_11.pdf

- D0220** Intraoral - periapical first film
- D0230** Intraoral - periapical each additional film
- D0270** Bitewing - single film
- D0272** Bitewings - two films
- D0274** Bitewings - four films
- D0120** Periodic oral evaluation (once in a 6 month period for beneficiaries under age 21 only)
- D0150** Comprehensive oral evaluation - new or established patient (initial episode of treatment only)
- D1110** Prophylaxis – adult (once in a twelve-month period for beneficiaries age 21 and over)
- D1120** Prophylaxis – child (once in a six-month period for beneficiaries under age 21)
- D1201** Topical application of fluoride (including prophylaxis) – child (once in a six-month period for beneficiaries under age 21)
- D1203** Topical application of fluoride (prophylaxis not included) – child (once in a six-month period for beneficiaries under age 21)
- D1204** Topical application of fluoride (prophylaxis not included) – adult (once in a twelve-month period for beneficiaries age 21 and over)
- D1205** Topical application of fluoride (including prophylaxis) – adult (once in a twelve-month period for beneficiaries age 21 and over)
- D4210** Gingivectomy or gingivoplasty- four or more contiguous teeth or bounded teeth spaces per quadrant
- D4211** Gingivectomy or gingivoplasty- one to three teeth, per quadrant
- D4260** Osseous surgery (including flap entry and closure) - four or more contiguous teeth or bounded teeth spaces per quadrant
- D4261** Osseous surgery (including flap entry and closure) - one to three teeth, per quadrant
- D4341** Periodontal scaling and root planing - four or more contiguous teeth or bounded teeth spaces per quadrant
- D4342** Periodontal scaling and root planing - one to three teeth, per quadrant
- D4920** Unscheduled dressing change (by someone other than treating dentist)
- D9951** Occlusal adjustment – limited

What should you know about pregnancy dental benefits for women with Denti-Cal?

- Most providers are under the impression that “all” adult Denti-Cal benefits were eliminated including those for pregnant women and often don't want to treat pregnant and postpartum women. We need your help to inform providers that pregnant and postpartum women continue to be eligible for services.
- Dental providers are not aware of updated Denti-Cal bulletins on the website unless they continually monitor the site. We can distribute the bulletins by way of fax, email or directing them to the Denti-Cal website to view the information first hand.
- Agencies and organizations who work with pregnant and post-partum women with Medi-Cal should encourage and inform them about the benefits and importance of

seeing dentist during pregnancy. If assistance in finding a dental provider that treats pregnant women is needed please call Maternal and Child Health Access at 213 – 749-4261.

Denti-Cal bulletins and a summary of the topic (listed in

- **Bulletin Vol. 26, #12 clarifies radiograph requirements for pregnant and postpartum beneficiaries.**
- **Bulletin Vol. 26 #11 clarifies all pregnancy related information.**
 - List additional aid codes that are eligible for Pregnancy-related benefits.
 - 5 new benefits were added to the pregnancy-related benefits
 - A TAR does not need to be submitted for pregnancy related services, for information on when to submit a TAR see http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/provsrvcs/bulletins/Volume_26_Number_15.pdf.
 - Clarifies when to indicate “Pregnant” or “Post-Partum” in the comments area
 - Clarifies information on Emergency Dental Services and limited scope aid codes eligible for emergency dental procedures.
- **Bulletin Vol. 26 #10 lists emergency benefits available to any person with restricted Medi-Cal.**
- **Bulletin Vol. 25 #24 notes that in the case of a denial, providers can submit a Claim Inquiry Form (CIF) and writing “Pregnant” in the comments field (34) and have the claim reprocessed.**
- **Bulletin Vol. 25 #22 clarifies which dental services are still available to all adults with full scope Medi-Cal and which additional services are available to pregnant women as well and lists the new procedure codes.**
- **Bulletin Vol. 22 #22 clarifies that these services are available to women with Presumptive Eligibility Medi-Cal.** Prior authorization is not required for non-emergency services.

NOTE: Denti-Cal is a benefit of Medi-Cal; clients do NOT need to fill out a separate application.

NOTE about pregnant women with two Medi-Cal cases: Often women who qualify for free pregnancy-related Medi-Cal will have another Medi-Cal case for other non-pregnancy benefits (like a broken leg or other health care) that requires a “share of cost”. Providers are understandably confused by these dual cases; however, the dental benefits described in this bulletin definitely come under the free pregnancy-related Medi-Cal case.

To access Denti-Cal bulletins visit:

<http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/WSI/Bulletins.jsp?fname=BulletinsMain>

If you need copies of the Denti-Cal bulletins or have questions, comments, or problems, please call Monica at (213) 749-4261 or e-mail dental@mchaccess.org.