



Dental Benefits for Pregnant Women!

Help Get The Word Out!

On October 7, 2005, SB 377 (Ortiz) was signed into law, requiring the immediate implementation of 10 preventive dental benefits for *ALL* pregnant women with “limited scope” Medi-Cal. These benefits are also available to women with Presumptive Eligibility Medi-Cal. These benefits are described in the Denti-Cal Bulletins for December, 2005 (Vol.21, No. 41, Dec., 2005) and for August, 2006 (Vol. 22, #22). Since the release of these bulletins the procedure codes have changed.

As of July 1, 2009, the state began limiting adult dental services under Denti-Cal. These benefits for pregnant women were *not* affected. A list of the dental services still available to all adults and to pregnant women along with the updated procedure codes can be found in the Denti-Cal Bulletin for May, 2009 (Vol.25, #22)) with further clarification in the bulletin for October, 2009 (Vol. 25, No. 34) (see link below).

Why are these preventive dental benefits so important?

These benefits were added because of 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. For more information, see the MCH Access website: www.mchaccess.org/dental.htm.

What should you know about these pregnancy related dental benefits?

- **Denti-Cal Bulletin Vol. 41 #21 clarifies that ALL pregnant women on Medi-Cal are eligible regardless of their aid code.** Prior to October 7, 2005, only women who had “full-scope” Medi-Cal or were in certain “limited scope” aid codes could get these preventive dental benefits. Now, however, covered groups also include:
 - Minors with “Minor Consent” or “Sensitive Services” Medi-Cal
 - Women who are on Presumptive Eligibility Medi-Cal (PE), 7G
 - Women in the frequently-used Medi-Cal aid code, 3V

- Women during their postpartum period, regardless of aid code
- Other women in any of the aid codes listed on the attached Bulletin.

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

NOTE about pregnant women with two Medi-Cal cases: Often women who qualify for free pregnancy-related Medi-Cal will often have another Medi-Cal case that requires a “share of cost” for other, non-pregnancy benefits (like a broken leg or other health care) 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.

- **Bulletin Vol. 21 #41 clarifies that NO Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) form can or should be filed.** If a TAR is filed for any of these 10 preventive benefits, the TAR will be denied simply because a TAR is not needed; a TAR denial for these benefits does not mean the woman is not eligible. To avoid delays and confusion, TARs should *not* be submitted for these benefits.
- **Bulletin Vol. 21 #41 also clarifies that pregnant women and others with “limited scope” Medi-Cal qualify for emergency dental services.** For the provider to be reimbursed, however, documentation of the dental emergency must be submitted with the claim, after the emergency has been treated. This is the usual procedure for reimbursement for any emergency Medi-Cal service for any woman, man or child.
- **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.
- **Bulletin Vol. 25 #22 clarifies which dental services are still available to all adults and which additional services are available to pregnant women as well and lists the new procedure codes.**

Denti-Cal bulletins are available at:

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

Please call us (213) 749-4261 – Lynn, Liz, Celia, Debra, Donald or e-mail dental@mchaccess.org if you need copies of the Denti-Cal bulletins or have questions, comments, or problems.