



Oral Health and Pregnant Women

MCHA Monthly Meeting

**Monica Ochoa, MPH
Oral Health Coordinator
Maternal and Child Health Access**



Maternal and Child Health Access (MCHA) improves the health of low income women and families through advocacy, education, training and direct services.



Timeline of CA Oral Health Pregnancy Benefits

2001	2005	2010	2014
First specific oral health benefits for pregnant women in four of the most used aid codes	Expanded to ALL aid codes in which women and girls who might become pregnant are found	Oral Health Advocacy project	“Partial restoration” included all pregnant beneficiaries in all aid codes



Why is oral health during pregnancy so important and how can it improve utilization for kids?

Pregnancy

Teachable moment

Results in better maternal and child health outcome

Oral disease is transmissible (mother's decay influences the child's level of disease)

Are the main caretakers



Mothers

View oral health as an integral part of overall health

Decision makers

Ensure that their children miss less school days

Influence their immediate and extended family



Windows of infectivity for pathogenic bacteria: 0-3 years, puberty and menopause.

- Girls 10-14
- Boys 12-16



Coverage for Pregnant Women



Pregnant women (over 21)	Full scope	FRADS + Preventive benefits + partial restoration
Pregnant women (over 21)	Pregnancy Medi-Cal	FRADS + Preventive benefits + partial restoration
Pregnant women (under 21)	Full scope	Full coverage + preventive benefits
Pregnant women (19 - 21)	Pregnancy Medi-Cal	FRADS + preventive benefits + partial restoration



Partial Restoration

Dental benefits for adults 21 and older eligible for full scope Medi-Cal were restored (May 2014) by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Exams and
x-rays

Fluoride
treatments

Cleanings

Fillings

Prefabricated
crowns

Anterior root
canals (front teeth)

Full
dentures

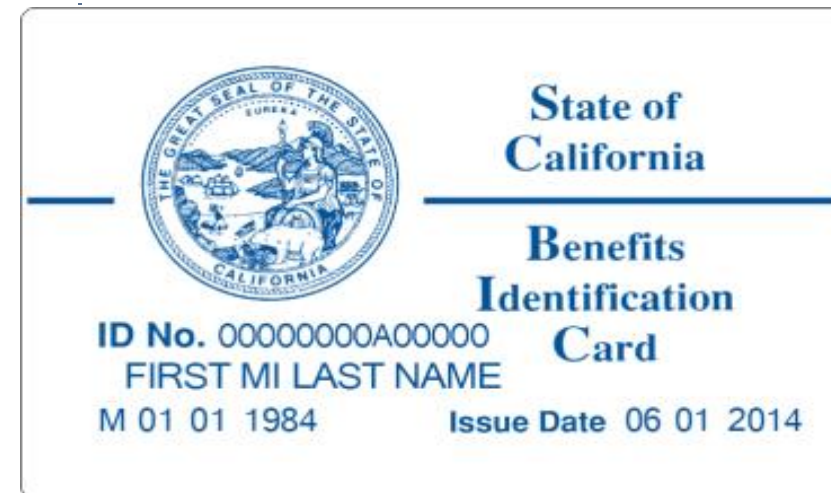
Denti-Cal adult benefits that will remain in place and **do not change** as a result of the restoration:

- Pregnancy-related services
- Emergency services
- Services provided to residents of an Intermediate Care Facility/Skilled Nursing Facility
- Services provided to consumers of the Department of Developmental Services



The dental portion of Medi-Cal is called **Denti-Cal**. Denti-Cal administers the dental program for Medi-Cal. The fiscal intermediary for Denti-Cal is Delta Dental.

Denti-Cal provides dental services for all Medi-Cal beneficiaries and dental care is considered a primary health care service.





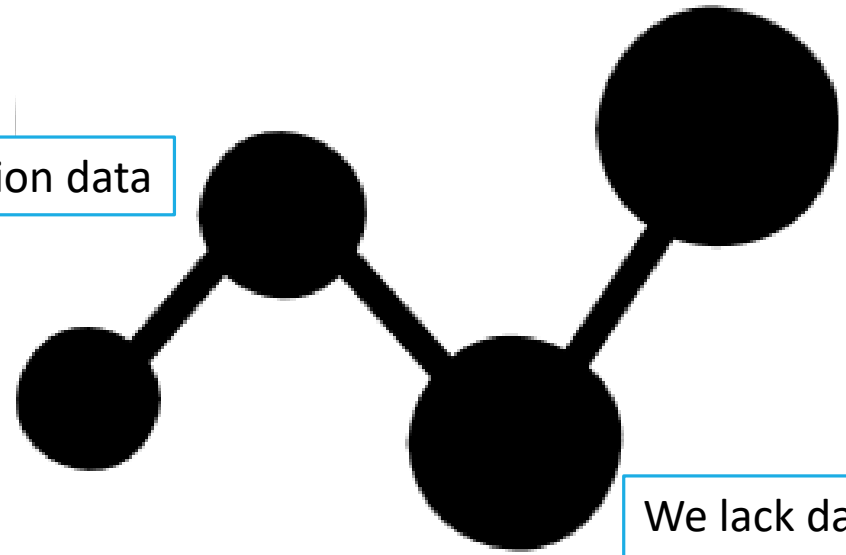
How many pregnant women actually visit the dentist what the **data tells us...**



The 2013 utilization rate for Los Angeles County is 14.6 for pregnant women who received a pregnancy related medical service and a pregnancy related dental service.

We don't have true utilization data

We can only obtain data from pregnancy only aid codes



Information from women who visit the dentist during their pregnancy is not quantified (not captured on the claim form)

We lack data from non-pregnancy aid codes



Important things to know about oral health during pregnancy

1

All pregnant women eligible for Medi-Cal automatically have dental benefits

2

All pregnant women are eligible for preventive pregnancy benefits

3

Denti-Cal's partial restoration of adult dental benefits applies to pregnant women in any aid code. Even women with pregnancy Medi-Cal

4

Many pregnant women do not visit the dentist because they do not know they have dental benefits and don't know where to go

5

To find a Denti-Cal provider that will see pregnant women call the 800 number and ask for 2-3 providers in the beneficiaries zip code then call each and ask:

- Treat Y/N
- Authorization/release Y/N
- Trimesters

6

Dental treatment during any stage of pregnancy is safe.

7

Inform all pregnant women and prenatal providers of dental benefits; to ensure a healthier pregnancy and increase the likelihood that the mom will return with her young child to visit a dental professional

8

To learn more about oral health during pregnancy, visit: www.mchaccess.org and view the Oral Health Advocacy videos.

9

MCHA has posters that inform pregnant women about dental benefits, order some today!





Denti-Cal Website

<http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov>

On the website:

- Find a Denti-Cal provider
- Provider Seminars
- Provider bulletins and handbook
- Dental resources

CA.GOV Department of Health Care Services Denti-Cal

Home Providers Beneficiaries Outreach Publications HHPAA NPI Dental Managed Care Statutes and Regulations Healthy Families Transition

Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Denti-Cal

Dental Services are currently provided as one of the many benefits under the Medi-Cal program. This site provides access to Medi-Cal Dental Program provider bulletins, manuals, regulations and various forms. Also, a variety of important and timely information can be found throughout this site including: Beneficiary Services, Medi-Cal Eligibility, Publications, Provider Services, Outreach Services, Fraud and Abuse and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. You will also find answers to the most commonly asked questions. Provider and Beneficiary Telephone Service Center toll-free phone numbers are listed for both Beneficiaries and Providers in their respective sections, including TTY for the hearing impaired.

Please note: This Web site contains several documents in the Adobe PDF format. The free reader can be downloaded from the Medi-Cal [WebTool Box](#) or from Adobe at [Adobe.com/Reader](#)

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING CLAIMS ELECTRONICALLY?
Click Here To Sign Up
[View all Denti-Cal Banners](#)

WHAT'S NEW

- 2014 Fee For Service Performance Measures [new](#)
- Special Bulletin: Teledentistry [new](#)
- October 2015 Bulletin [new](#)
- Special Bulletin: Modified Policy for General Anesthesia and Intravenous Sedation
- Special Bulletin: Non-Intravenous Conscious Sedation (D9248)
- Q4 2015 Provider Seminar Schedule
- Special Bulletin: Effective December 1, 2015 Denti-Cal will No Longer Return Radiographs or Photographs to Providers
- Dental Provider Network Capacity Survey Summary June 2015
- Special Bulletin: AB 97 Ten Percent Provider Payment Reduction Dental Exemption
- Report to the Legislature: The Department of Health Care Services Medi-Cal Dental Services Rate Review [new](#)
- All Dental Stakeholders Email List
- DMCS Policies Regarding Public Records Act (PRA) & Public Aggregate Data Reporting (PGDR)
- Providers Receiving Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) May Opt to Discontinue Receiving Paper EOBs
- Sign-Up for the Denti-Cal Fee-For-Service Provider Email List
- Comprehensive Services for Pregnant Beneficiaries
- Provider Enrollment Status Inquiry Form
- Update: Changes to the Explanation of Benefits
- Best Practices for Providers in Addressing No-Show Rates
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Enrollment Form
- Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) Enrollment Form

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Dental Enrollment Workshops for Dental Providers
- Quick Reference for Denti-Cal Dentists



Directory of Providers

For assistance in finding a dentist who accept new patients for the Medi-Cal Dental Program, call toll-free (800) 322-6384, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

InsureKidsNow.gov

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/WSI/Bene.jsp?fname=Pr>. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible. The website's navigation menu includes: Home, Providers, Beneficiaries, Outreach, Publications, HIPAA, NPI, Dental Managed Care, Statutes and Regulations, and Healthy Families Transition. Below the navigation menu, there is a banner for the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. with a "Visit his Website" link. The main content area is titled "Find a Dentist" and features the "InsureKidsNow.gov Search Engine". A descriptive paragraph states: "The Denti-Cal Program, in coordination with Insure Kids Now, has provided Denti-Cal beneficiaries with a new way to search for dentists in their local area and throughout the State. By filling in the fields below, you will find the closest providers accepting new patients in your area. If you have any questions or need assistance finding a dentist, call our Beneficiary Customer Service Line at 1-800-322-6384." Below this text is a large graphic for InsureKidsNow.gov with the tagline "Connecting Kids to Coverage". The graphic includes a search bar with the text "SEARCH" and a "Go" button. A small orange banner in the top right corner of the graphic says "En Español". At the bottom of the page, there are navigation links: "Home > Learn About Programs in Your State >> California" and "California".



Dental Landscape of Los Angeles County

- Number of community clinics/FQHC with dental clinics - 61
- Number of FFS providers – approx. 1,600
- Dental teaching universities – USC, UCLA, Western University (Pomona)
- Managed Care Plans – Liberty, Health Net and Access Dental
- Average wait time for a dental appointment:
 - At an FQHC wait time varies. Children may be seen sooner than adults because they are given priority and have full benefits vs. adults who have limited benefits.
 - At USC there is a 3 month wait for an initial consult for ADULTS.
 - A child with special needs may have a really hard time finding treatment or a provider who will see them and often needs to be sedated. Coordination of care is even more difficult. There is a 1 year wait at USC for children with special needs who need sedation.
 - Western Dental is no longer taking Denti-Cal patients at some of its clinics due to the low reimbursement rates paid by the state.





Helping your clients

When your client(s) ask you about access to dental services find out what kind of Medi-Cal they have

What seems to be their dental issue/problem-

Kids – ALL HAVE full coverage should go to a FFS or MC provider

Adults with full scope – if covered benefit, send them to a FFS or MC provider

- Back root canal – not a covered benefit so send them to a teaching university
- Minor (simple) extractions – covered through Medi-Cal send them to a FQHC or a FFS provider
- Major (surgical) extractions – not covered through Medi-Cal send them to a teaching university

When in doubt, call Denti-Cal Telephone Service Center for help at 1-800-322-6384

They will be able to tell you what type of Medi-Cal the client has, specific benefits and where the client can go for treatment.

Call Maternal and Child Health Access for assistance with all high risk cases, especially pregnant women.



SB 75 – Medi-Cal expansion for undocumented children

Along with health benefits these children are also now eligible for dental benefits. Their dental benefits are the same as for kids with full scope coverage.

New American Media – Highlight the expansion and in particular with kids having access to dental.



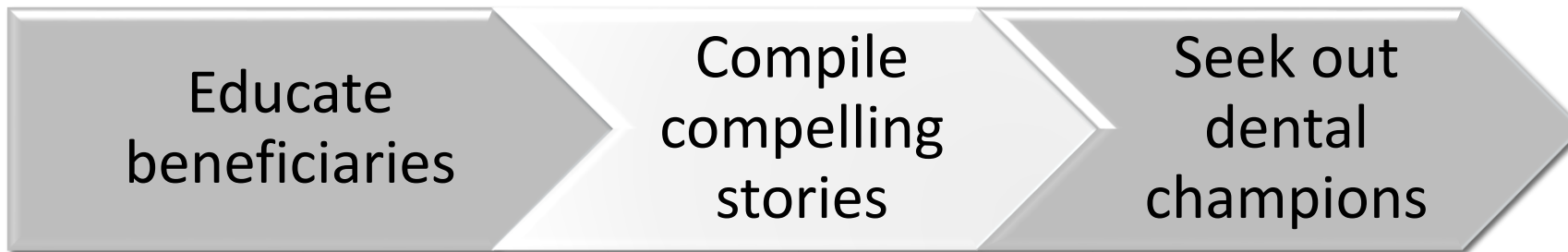


Being reminded 7 times that you have dental benefits and the importance of accessing care is powerful!

1. Medical visit (2-3 reminders)
2. School enrollment/communication (2-3 reminders)
3. Outreach from Denti-Cal
4. Community health worker/health fair
5. WIC office or home visitor



What can you do to help increase access to care?





Questions and contact information

Monica Ochoa, MPH

Oral Health Advocacy Coordinator

Maternal and Child Health Access

1111 West Sixth Street, Fourth Fl.

Los Angeles, CA 90017

213 – 749-4261

monicao@mchaccess.org