

Domain 2: Caries Risk Assessment and Disease Management Pilot

Domain Goal

The goals for this four (4) year Domain are to assess Medi-Cal children ages six (6) and under for caries risk and to manage the disease of caries using preventive services and non-invasive treatment approaches instead of more invasive and costly restorative procedures.

Who can participate in this Domain?

Medi-Cal Dental providers enrolled as Medi-Cal Dental Fee-For-Service (FFS), Dental Managed Care (DMC), or Safety Net Clinic providers in select pilot counties are eligible to opt-in to this Domain. Medi-Cal Dental providers must be able to submit claims data to the dental fiscal intermediary (DXC Technology Services) including encounter data with specific Current Dental Terminology (CDT) code information. Additionally, Medi-Cal dental providers in select pilot counties must complete the Department of Health Care Services (Department) [approved training](#), submit a certificate of completion for the training, and opt-in to the pilot using a Department [defined process](#).

How is data collected for this Domain?

The Department collects aggregate data for this Domain through claims data submitted by providers enrolled in FFS Medi-Cal Dental, DMC, and Safety Net Clinics. Statewide and county baseline data and information regarding enrolled FFS and DMC providers will also be used.

Where will this Domain be implemented?

The Department began this effort as a pilot in eleven (11) select counties in January 2017, and as authorized under the Medi-Cal 2020 Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) decided to expand this Domain. Effective January 1, 2019, the Department expanded to an additional eighteen (18) counties, bringing the total to 29 pilot counties. An evaluation of this effort will be conducted in 2021 to determine if incentive payments were effective in preventing and mitigating oral disease through the delivery of preventive services.

Caries Risk Assessment Form

Medi-Cal Dental providers participating in the Domain will utilize a standardized [Caries Risk Assessment \(CRA\) form](#), developed in partnership with a group of clinical experts, to ensure uniform application of the CRAs and risk level determinations.

The 29 pilot counties are:

- Contra Costa*
- Fresno*
- Glenn
- Humboldt
- Imperial*
- Inyo
- Kern*
- Kings
- Lassen
- Los Angeles*
- Madera*
- Mendocino
- Merced*
- Monterey*
- Orange*
- Plumas
- Riverside*
- Sacramento
- San Bernardino*
- San Diego*
- San Joaquin*
- Santa Barbara*
- Santa Clara*
- Sierra
- Sonoma*
- Stanislaus*
- Tulare
- Ventura*
- Yuba

* New counties as of January 1, 2019

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How were the original pilot counties selected?

In accordance with the STCs, the Department selected the original pilot counties through an analysis of counties with a high percentage of restorative services and a low percentage of preventive services. Utilization data was collected at the county-level for Fiscal Years (FY) 13-14 and FY 14-15, on preventive services (procedure codes D1000-D1999) versus the utilization of restorative services (procedure codes D2000-D2999), specifically for children age six (6) and under, as per the Domain's parameters.

How were the expanded counties selected?

Selection of the expanded counties was based on the same methodology used to select the original pilot counties with a focus on more robust provider and member population.

How are incentive payments calculated?

Participating Medi-Cal Dental providers receive incentive payments for using the standardized CRA, development of a treatment plan, nutritional counseling, and motivational interviewing. Prophylaxis, application of topical fluoride varnish, application of interim caries arresting medication application (for children assessed at high risk), and oral evaluation are reimbursed using existing claiming processes. Participating Medi-Cal Dental providers receive a bundled incentive payment for completion of the approved CRA, treatment plan, nutritional counseling, and motivational interviewing at designated intervals depending upon assessed risk levels. Additional dental services are reimbursed based on the prescribed frequencies within designated intervals that may exceed standard frequency limitations outlined in the Manual of Criteria (MOC) depending upon assessed risk levels.

Increased frequencies for services are permitted for children evaluated and determined to be at caries risk levels as follows:

- “high risk” children will be authorized to visit their Medi-Cal Dental provider every three (3) months;
- “moderate risk” children will be authorized to visit their Medi-Cal Dental provider every four (4) months; and
- “low risk” children will be authorized to visit their Medi-Cal Dental provider every six (6) months.

The following CDT codes are global to the CRA, and shall be performed at the time of the CRA: CRA D0601, D0602, and D0603 (low, medium or high risk), nutritional counseling (D1310), and motivational interview (D9993). Additionally, Medi-Cal Dental providers may apply and submit claims for interim caries arresting medication (D1354) for children (high risk only) at the time of the visit, if appropriate for the child. Please refer to billing resources and toolkits on the Domain [webpage](#).

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Table 1 – Pilot CRA Reimbursement Amounts

Risk Level	Procedure	Frequency	CRA Reimbursement Amount
Low	D0601 - Caries Risk Assessment, low risk D1310 - Nutritional Counseling D9993 - Motivational Interview	Every 6 months	\$126.00
Moderate	D0602 - Caries Risk Assessment, moderate risk D1310 - Nutritional Counseling D9993 - Motivational Interview	Every 4 months	\$126.00
High	D0603 - Caries Risk Assessment, high risk D1310 - Nutritional Counseling D9993 - Motivational Interview	Every 3 months	\$126.00
High Risk Only	D1354 - Interim Caries Arresting Medication	Every 6 months	\$35.00

The reimbursement for the fluoride procedure (D1206 or D1208), prophylaxis (D1120), and oral evaluations (D0145, D0150 or D0120) equate to the current Schedule of Maximum Allowances (SMA) for these procedures.

What is the frequency of incentive payments and who will the incentives be paid to?

Incentive payments will be paid to participating Medi-Cal Dental providers, in accordance with the frequency of service as determined by the assessed risk level, using the current Medi-Cal Dental claim submission process.

Domain 2 Budget by Fiscal Year

Table 2 – Annual Domain Costs by Program Year

Program Year (PY) ¹	Annual Expenditures Amount (\$)
PY 1 – January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016	None
PY 2 – January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017	\$46,404,197
PY 3 – January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018	\$47,405,943
PY 4 – January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019	\$48,429,408
PY 5 – January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020	\$49,475,063
Total Domain Expenditures	\$191,714,612

¹PY in accordance with STC Attachment P

Please direct questions and requests for additional information regarding this Domain to the following email address: DTI@DHCS.CA.GOV. For follow-up on submitted claims, please use the Medi-Cal Dental Provider number at (800) 423-0507.