

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Medi-Cal Dental Proposals

CalAIM is a multi-year initiative to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of our Medi-Cal population by implementing broad delivery system, program and payment reform across the Medi-Cal program. The major components of CalAIM build on the successful outcomes of various pilots (including the Dental Transformation Initiative) from the previous federal waivers and will result in a better quality of life for Medi-Cal members as well as long-term cost savings/avoidance.

The Department is committed to improving the accessibility of Medi-Cal dental services and improving oral health outcomes for Medi-Cal members. The Department set a goal to achieve at least a 60 percent dental utilization rate for Medi-Cal eligible children, and increase preventive service utilization for children and adults. In order to progress toward achieving these goals and based on lessons learned from the Dental Transformation Initiative, the Department proposes the following reforms to be made statewide to provide better care and align with national dental care standards. The proposed new benefits include:

1. Pay for Performance: Increase statewide utilization of preventive services for all Medi-Cal members

A flat rate performance payment for each paid preventive service rendered by a service office location:

- Individuals age 20 and under: CDT codes D1120, D1206, D1208, D1351, D1352, D1510, D1516, D1517, D1526, D1527, D1551, D1552, D1553, D1556, D1557, D1558, and D1575
- Individuals age 21 and over: CDT codes D1320 and D1999

2. Coverage of a Caries Risk Assessment (CRA) Bundle for children ages 0 to 6 years.

CRA bundle with associated codes to educate and influence behavior change, including nutritional counselling. Frequency of services based on risk level associated with each individual Medi-Cal dental member ages 0 to 6:

- Low – comprehensive preventive services 2x/year (D0601)
- Moderate – comprehensive preventive services 3x/year (D0602)
- High – comprehensive preventive services 4x/year (D0603)

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) coverage for children ages 0 to 6 years and persons with underlying conditions such that nonrestorative caries treatment may be optimal; which may include adults living in a skilled nursing facility/intermediate care facility or the

Department of Developmental Services population. The SDF benefit would provide two visits per member per year, for up to ten teeth per visit, at a per-tooth rate and a maximum of four treatments per tooth.

3. Performance Payment: Establish and Maintain Continuity of Care through a Dental Home

A flat rate performance payment paid annually to a service office location for a paid claim for one of the Current Dental Terminology exam codes D0120, D0150, or D0145, for the same Medi-Cal member for two or more years in a row.