

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-9  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
(916) 654-1958



December 20, 2011

TO: REGIONAL CENTER DIRECTORS, ADMINISTRATORS AND CHIEF  
COUNSELORS

SUBJECT: REGIONAL CENTER CONSUMERS' RECEIPT OF DENTAL SERVICES  
UTILIZING DENTI-CAL INFRASTRUCTURE

As you know, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) has been working with staff from the Denti-Cal program section of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) regarding the use of the Denti-Cal program rules and infrastructure for the provision of dental services to regional center consumers age 21 and over. Beginning on January 13, 2012, dentists participating in the Denti-Cal program may treat regional center consumers, age 21 and over, who have Medi-Cal, consistent with the rules and payments (SMA) for the Denti-Cal program. The Department will reimburse the cost of these services with regional center funding. The development of this means of obtaining dental services represents an alternative, but does not impact regional centers' ability to purchase dental services directly from a vendored dentist.

The Department is promulgating an amendment to section 54310 of California Code of Regulations, Title 17 regarding vendorization of Denti-Cal dentists. The new provision states, in part, "...the documentation provided to the dentist by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) approving the dentist's enrollment in the Denti-Cal program, including the dentist in the Provider Master File and providing the dentist with a Medi-Cal provider number, constitutes vendorization for the purposes of providing services to consumers under Dentistry - Service Code 715. The dentist's status as a Denti-Cal provider is under the oversight of DHCS." Therefore, regional centers do not need to take any action to vendorize dentists providing services to this specific group of consumers through the Denti-Cal infrastructure. However, this provision does not apply when regional centers are paying for services directly.

To obtain a list of Denti-Cal dentists in your county, please visit Denti-Cal's home page at: [www.denti-cal.ca.gov](http://www.denti-cal.ca.gov), click on the "Beneficiaries" tab, then click on the "Help in locating a Medi-Cal dentist" link. The list is updated weekly by DHCS. Each month, the Department will send DHCS a file containing information about those regional center consumers who are eligible to received dental services through this system. If a dentist needs to verify eligibility, the dentist may do so by calling Denti-Cal's Provider Telephone Service Center, at (800) 423-0507. Eligible consumers may receive the same dental services previously available through DHCS' optional dental benefits; however, they are not subject to the \$1,800 annual benefit cap. The Denti-Cal website contains other helpful information for recipients, including answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" at the link above.

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**

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The Department will reimburse DHCS for services on a monthly basis on behalf of the consumer's regional center. Because all services purchased by a regional center on behalf of a consumer must be reflected in the consumer's individual program plan, use of the Denti-Cal program for these individuals is predicated on the agreement that all regional centers would accept the responsibility to purchase any service offered by Denti-Cal.

At the end of every month, DHCS will send the Department a file containing the name, UCI number, etc. of each consumer who received dental services, the type of service received, the date the service was rendered, the service provider's name and contact information, and the cost of the service. The Department will in turn send each regional center a file containing the above information for those consumers associated with that specific regional center. Although, in some cases, regional centers may not know the specifics of services provided until after the fact, it is important that regional centers receive and maintain service related information for each consumer since the services are being purchased with regional center funds. DHCS will also send the Department a monthly claim, which the Department will pay directly. The Department will then send the detailed claims data to each regional center. The regional center is responsible to run a program developed by the Department to create an invoice and attendance records, process the claim through UFS, and submit a paper claim to the Department as "info only" for Denti-Cal. The Department will issue a Technical Bulletin to regional centers explaining the invoicing and claiming processes in the near future.

If an individual is denied a service for which a dentist has requested prior authorization, the individual has a right to a Fair Hearing through the Department of Social Services. Information regarding the process for filing for a Fair Hearing is also contained on the Denti-Cal website.

If you have questions regarding this correspondence or need clarification on how to access dental services for eligible individuals, please contact me at the telephone number above.

Sincerely,

*Original Signed By*

BRIAN WINFIELD  
Acting Deputy Director  
Community Operations Division

cc: ARCA