



Dental Transformation Initiative

Dental Transformation Initiative: Purpose and Goals



Program Purpose

- Improve the dental health of children to achieve overall better health outcomes
- Focus on high-quality care and improving access to dental care for Medi-Cal children
- Utilize performance measures to drive dental delivery system reform
- Develop dental health homes
- Prevent and mitigate oral disease through the delivery of preventive services in lieu of more invasive and costly procedures

Program Goals

- Increase the utilization of preventive dental and oral health services among children
- Expand prevention and risk assessment model to prevent and treat early childhood caries
- Increase dental continuity of care for children



Dental Transformation Initiative: Structure and Requirements

Program Structure

- **Core Components**
 - Promotes overall utilization of preventive services and oral health disease management
 - Providers may qualify for each provider incentive program (3 domains) simultaneously
- **Required Project Metrics**
 - Baseline data and active data tracking of preventive and restorative services provided
 - Tracking effectiveness of caries management based on positive changes relative to the beneficiary “risk” level
 - Baseline data and active monitoring of participating dental providers
 - 90 days continuous eligibility as parameters for beneficiaries ages 20 and under
- **Incentive Payments**
 - Total of \$750 million in total funds over 5-year period with \$10 million in total funds contingent on achieving statewide metrics



Dental Transformation Initiative: Domain Areas

Domain 1: Increase Preventive Services Utilization for Children

Domain 2: Caries Risk Assessment and Disease Management

Domain 3: Increase Continuity of Care

Domain 4: Local Dental Pilot Programs (LDPPs)



Dental Transformation Initiative: Domain Areas, Benchmarking, and Criteria

Domain 1: Increase Preventive Service Utilization for Children

Domain Goal

- Increase statewide proportion of children ages 20 and under enrolled in Medi-Cal who receive a preventive dental service by 10 percentage points over a five-year period.

Metric Benchmarking

- Performance targets will be set based on the most recent completed year preceding implementation of the waiver.
- Incentive payments will be made annually to providers for utilization and provider participation and will be used to determine the subsequent year's threshold.



Dental Transformation Initiative: Domain Areas, Benchmarking, and Criteria

Domain 1: Increase Preventive Service Utilization for Children

Criteria

- Semi-annual incentive payments will be made to dental provider service locations that provide preventative services to an increased number of Medi-Cal children, as compared to the department determined baseline.
- Incentive payments will be made to the service office locations for rendered preventive services once they have met the Department established goal.



Dental Transformation Initiative: Domain Areas, Benchmarking, and Criteria

Domain 2: Caries Risk Assessment and Disease Management

Domain Goal

- Diagnose early childhood caries by utilizing Caries Risk Assessments (CRA) to treat it as a chronic disease.
- Introduce a model that proactively prevents and mitigates oral disease through the delivery of preventative services in lieu of more invasive and costly procedures (restorative services).
- Identify the effectiveness of CRA and treatment plans for children ages 6 and under.
 - Treatment plans are prescribed based on caries risk level and include: CRA (globally includes motivational interviewing, nutritional counseling, and use of antimicrobials), topical fluoride varnish application, toothbrush prophylaxis, and exams.



Dental Transformation Initiative: Domain Areas, Benchmarking, and Criteria

Metric Benchmarking

- Baseline year will consist of statewide data for the most recent state fiscal year preceding implementation of the domain.
- DHCS will track and report the following measures:
 1. Number of, and percentage change in, restorative services;
 2. Number of, and percentage change in, preventive dental services;
 3. Utilization of CRA CDT codes and reduction of caries risk levels (not available in the baseline year prior to the Waiver implementation);
 4. Change in use of emergency rooms for dental related reasons among the targeted children for this domain; and
 5. Change in number and proportion of children receiving dental surgery under general anesthesia.



Dental Transformation Initiative: Domain Areas, Benchmarking, and Criteria

Criteria

- Dentists must opt-in by completing a Department recognized training program.
- Treatment plans and associated procedures will be carried out as follows, over a 12 month period:
 - “high risk” children will be authorized to visit 4 times
 - “moderate risk” children will be authorized to visit 3 times
 - “low risk” children will be authorized to visit 2 times
- Incentive payments will be made to providers for successful completion of caries treatment plan and improvement in “elevated risk” levels.



Dental Transformation Initiative: Domain Areas, Benchmarking, and Criteria

Domain 3: Increase Continuity of Care

Domain Goal

- Increase continuity of care for beneficiaries ages 20 and under for 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 continuous periods.

Metric Benchmarking

- Baseline year will be based on data from the most recent complete state fiscal year.
- Claims data will determine number of beneficiaries who received an examination each year from the same service office location for 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 year continuous periods.



Dental Transformation Initiative: Domain Areas, Benchmarking, and Criteria

Criteria

- Incentive payments will be available to service office locations that provide examinations to an enrolled Medi-Cal child for 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 continuous periods.
- The incentive payment will be an annual flat payment for providing continuity of care to the beneficiary.

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Optional Project



Domain 4: Local Dental Pilot Programs (LDPPs)

Project Goal

- LDPPS will address 1 or more of the 3 domains through alternative programs, potentially using strategies focused on rural areas including local case management initiatives and education partnerships
 - DHCS will solicit proposals once at the beginning of the demonstration and shall review, approve, and make payments for LDPPs in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver
 - A maximum of 15 LDPPs shall be approved

Metric Benchmarking

- LDPPs will be evaluated consistent with the performance metric of the aforementioned dental domains and the goals outlined in the individual proposals

Dental Transformation Initiative Optional Project



Criteria

- The specific strategies, target populations, payment methodologies, and participating entities shall be proposed by the entity submitting the application for participation and included in the submission to the Department.
 - DHCS shall approve only those applications that meet the requirements to further the goals of 1 or more of the 3 dental domains.
- Each pilot application shall designate a responsible county, Tribe, Indian Health Program, UC or CSU campus as the entity that will coordinate the pilot.