

# Denti-Cal Bulletin



VOLUME 19, NUMBER 10 P.O. BOX 15609 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95852-0609 MARCH 2003

## COMING SOON – MORE CHILDREN MAY COME TO YOUR PRACTICE THROUGH THE CHDP GATEWAY

### What is CHDP?

The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program is a preventive health assessment program serving children and youth from low-income families. Eligible children include those:

- from birth to age 21 who are enrolled in Medi-Cal
- from birth to age 19 not receiving full-scope Medi-Cal from families with income up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

A dental assessment by a medical provider is included in the CHDP program. The CHDP medical provider will refer children to a dentist for routine and follow-up dental treatment.

### What is the CHDP Gateway?

Beginning July 1, 2003, CHDP medical providers (*not* dental providers) will be able to pre-enroll eligible low-income children under 19 years of age into a new program called the CHDP Gateway. These children will receive *full-scope fee-for-service Medi-Cal and Denti-Cal benefits* for up to two months. Some of these children may seek care from your office.

### How is the CHDP Gateway relevant to my practice?

- More children will have access to comprehensive medical and dental coverage, resulting in their improved general and oral health.
- More children may be referred to your dental practice.
- The program offers you an opportunity to provide care to a group of children who might not otherwise have that opportunity.
- Because parents will know they may have less than 2 months to have as much of their child's dental treatment completed as possible, they should be more motivated to keep appointments.
- Medical providers and local CHDP program staff will be encouraging families to take advantage of care available to their children in a timely fashion.

### How will the CHDP Gateway work?

- The medical provider's office will screen children for eligibility and will know within minutes if a child is eligible. If the child is eligible, the family will immediately receive an eligibility document while at the medical provider's office. Within 10 days, the child will receive a Benefits Identification Card (BIC) that can also be used to verify eligibility.

- The child will be temporarily eligible for Denti-Cal benefits for the remainder of the month in which they are pre-enrolled and for the following month. For example, a child determined eligible on July 15 would remain eligible through August 30.
- During the period of temporary eligibility, the family will be encouraged to apply for Medi-Cal/Healthy Families coverage. If they do, the child's eligibility will be extended until the application is processed. If they do not, eligibility will end at the end of the second month.
- If the child is not currently under the care of a dentist, the family will be encouraged to make a dental appointment as soon as possible.
- The parent/caretaker will be instructed to bring the immediate eligibility document or BIC card with them to the child's dental appointment. You should still confirm the child's Medi-Cal eligibility at each visit. You will be able to refer the child for additional treatment to other fee-for-service Medi-Cal providers or have the child get a prescription filled.
- ***Because some children may be eligible for only 1-2 months, it is very important for children with temporary Medi-Cal eligibility to be seen as quickly as possible. You may want to consider setting aside a block of time to see these children.***

A more detailed Denti-Cal Bulletin about the CHDP Gateway will be issued closer to the July 1 start-up date. If you would like additional information about the program, please call your local CHDP program. A directory of local programs can be found at [www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/directory.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/directory.htm).