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Section 1 - Introduction

Program Background

In July 1965, two important amendments to the Social Security Act greatly expanded the scope of medical coverage available to much of the population. Title XVIII established the Medicare program, and Title XIX created the optional state medical assistance program known as Medicaid. This legislation also provided for the federal government to match funds for states electing to implement a comprehensive health care program.

In November 1965, legislation was signed to implement the Title XIX program in the State of California, called "Medi-Cal." A dental segment of this program was subsequently established. Initially, benefits provided under the California Medi-Cal Dental were approved by the State and paid by Blue Shield of California as fiscal intermediary. Effective January 2018, Delta Dental of California as the Administrative Services Organization (ASO) and Gainwell Technologies to be the Fiscal Intermediary (FI) of the Medi-Cal Dental. The ASO provides dental administrative services, and the FI manages the claims processing system.

Over the years, Medi-Cal Dental has undergone several changes. Legislation in 1991 brought about reduced documentation and prior authorization requirements for many common procedures, increased the fees paid to providers for these services, and expanded outreach activities to promote greater access to dental care for all Medi-Cal members. Medi-Cal Dental has also seen the creation of an orthodontic benefits program for members with handicapping malocclusion, cleft palate, and craniofacial anomalies. The scope of available services for children was widened with the addition of dental sealants as a covered benefit.

Innovative program enhancements such as electronic funds transfer of Medi-Cal dental payments and electronic claims submission continue to bring Medi-Cal Dental to the forefront as one of the most advanced systems of subsidized dental health care delivery in the United States.

Program Objectives

The primary objective of Medi-Cal Dental is to create a better dental care system and increase the quality of services available to those individuals and families who rely on public assistance to help meet their health care needs. Through expanding participation by the dental community and efficient, cost-effective administration of Medi-Cal Dental, the goal to provide quality dental care to Medi-Cal members continues to be achieved.

Regulations

Medi-Cal Dental is governed by policies subject to the laws and regulations of the Welfare and Institutions (W & I) Code, the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, and the California Business and Professions Code - Dental Practice Act. For additional information, visit these websites:

- [W & I Code](#)
- [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Title 22](#)
- [California Business and Professions Code](#)
- [Medi-Cal Dental](#)

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