

Many Medi-Cal Recipients Remain Eligible for Dental Services

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PDH's Family Dental Clinic has been fielding many questions related to recent changes to California's Medi-Cal Dental Services program. Although State law (Welfare and Institutions Code section 14131.10) eliminated most adult dental services as a Medi-Cal benefit on July 1, services that are considered mandatory under federal law will continue to be covered. Adult dental services that are still covered include the following:

- Adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries remain eligible for limited dental services that provide relief from pain and infection - such as tooth removal.
- Pregnant women are eligible to receive dental exams, cleanings and gum treatments during pregnancy, including 60 days of postpartum care.
- People who live in certain licensed Skilled Nursing Facilities or Intermediate Care Facilities.

"It is important that our adult patients know they have access to emergency dental services under the new Medi-Cal rules. We don't want anyone to endure unnecessary pain from a broken tooth or infection," said PDH Dental Clinic Director, David Reed D.D.S.

Children and young adults who are under 21 years of age with full scope Medi-Cal, and eligible for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program remain eligible for dental services.

Dental services are available Monday through Friday and provided by two full-time dentists, David Reed, D.D.S. and Pooja Patel, D.D.S., and by Cindy Warner, R.D.H.A.P.

The PDH Dental Clinic accepts new patients, including those with private dental insurance or private pay. Services available consist of cleanings, x-rays, fillings, oral surgery (extractions), crowns, bridges, periodontics (gum care), endodontics (root canals), dentures and emergency dental care.