

Policy and Procedure			
Policy Name:	Dental Home	Policy ID:	QM.005.01
Approved By:	Dental Director (signature on file)	Effective Date:	11/04/2011
States:	All States	Revision Date:	N/A
Application:	Government programs and Commercial DHMO		

This policy applies for operations under Premier Access Insurance Company and Access Dental Plan. For the purposes of this Policy, Premier Access Insurance Company and Access Dental Plan shall be collectively referred to as "Premier Access".

Purpose

To encourage parents and dental providers to help every child establish a dental home by 12 months of age or at the eruption of the first tooth.

Policy

Premier Access and Access Dental Plan recognize the AAPD policy of establishing the dental home by age 1 year and recommend providers to follow the guidelines set by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) for providing dental care to children by the age of 1. The AAPD recommends by the age of 1, parents or caregivers establish a dental home for infants that would provide a complete oral examination, risk assessment, prevention services and comprehensive care appropriate to the needs of the child. In aid of this recommendation, AAPD guidelines also suggest that health care professionals be supportive of selection of dental home for all infants at 1 year of age.

The Medi-Cal Dental Services Division (MDSD) strongly encourages all Plans to follow the AAPD guidelines. In addition, MDSD recommends that plans further augment the practice of these guidelines by educating providers on the importance of dental care to children by age 1 and encouraging them to follow the AAPD guidelines.

Complete guidelines on Infants Oral Health Care are available on the AAPD website under InfantOralHealthCare.

Definitions

"Dental home" (as defined by AAPD) means the ongoing relationship between the dentist and the patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way. Establishment of a dental home begins no later than 12 months of age and includes referral to dental specialists when appropriate.

Procedure

Providers will be educated on the policy through mailing and news letters. The policy will also be included in the Premier Access Provider Manual.

References

Policy on the Dental Home: American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Reference Manual, V32\No 6 10/11

Guideline on Infant Oral Health Care: American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Reference Manual, V32\No 6 10/11

California Department of Health Care Services: DentalCareByAge1. All Plan Letter (APL), May 17, 2010

Revision History

Date	Description
11/01/2011	Original policy developed.
01/01/2013	Annual review, no recommended changes.