

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



December 30, 2005

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-82-05

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION PROGRAM DIRECTORS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: HEALTH ASSESSMENTS, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to clarify the utilization of periodic preventive health services for foster children in out-of-home placement. When a child has been removed from his/her home, the child becomes eligible for health care coverage under Medi-Cal. The Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) is responsible for the EPS portion of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) component of the Medi-Cal benefits package. The CHDP Program is responsible for the development of standards and guidelines for the provision of EPSDT preventive health services.

Periodicity schedules for health assessment and dental referrals standardize the assessment intervals and promote continuity of care. This periodicity schedule may be seen in its entirety by accessing the CHDP Provider Manual on line in the Appendix Section:

- Periodicity Schedule for Health Assessment Requirements by Age Group, Table 101.1: [http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/Masters-Other/CHDP/forms/periodhealth\\_c01.pdf](http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/Masters-Other/CHDP/forms/periodhealth_c01.pdf)
- Periodicity Schedule for Dental Referral by Age, Table 101.2: [http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/Masters-Other/CHDP/forms/perioddental\\_c01.pdf](http://files.medical.ca.gov/pubsdoco/publications/Masters-Other/CHDP/forms/perioddental_c01.pdf)

Children and youth who are enrolled in Medi-Cal and receive medical care on a fee-for-service basis are eligible for one health assessment during each of the age periods according to the CHDP periodicity schedule. Additional health assessments for preventive care may be reimbursed if there is a reason for performing a Medically Necessary Inter-periodic Health Assessment (MNIHA). The complex health problems of foster care children are widely known within the health care community at large, and would render sufficient justification for performing a MNIHA. Diagnosis and treatment

services for conditions identified in a CHDP health assessment are available to Medi-Cal eligible children through the Medi-Cal Program.

A dental assessment is required as part of every CHDP health assessment regardless of age. The CHDP program recommends a direct referral to a dentist beginning at one year of age and annually thereafter. All children participating in the CHDP Program must be referred to a participating Denti-Cal dentist annually, beginning at age three years, regardless of whether a dental problem is detected or suspected. Children may be referred at any age if a dental problem is detected or suspected, or for maintenance of oral health. A Denti-Cal provider may provide a periodic dental examination once in a six-month period.

If you have any questions regarding the CHDP program, please contact the appropriate local program office as listed at the following site:

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/chdp/directory.htm>

If you have any questions regarding related child welfare services and requirements, please contact West Irvin, Manager, Placement Services and Support Unit, at (916) 651-7465.

Sincerely,

MARY L. AULT  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division  
Department of Social Services

MARIAN DALSEY, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting Chief  
Children's Medical Services  
Department of Health Services