

California CHDP/EPSTD Periodicity Schedule for Dental Referral by Age

Age (years)	Routine Dental Referral	Suspected Dental Problem
1* - 20	 Refer every 6 months** (Children with special needs may need more frequent referrals)	Refer at any age if a problem is suspected or detected

- A dental screening or oral assessment is required at every CHDP/EPSTD*** health assessment regardless of age. [EPSTD- A Guide for States](#) pp.13-15 https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/downloads/epsdt_coverage_guide.pdf
- Refer children directly to a dentist:
 - **Beginning at age one** as required [California Health and Safety Code Section 124040 \(6\)\(D\)](#) http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=124040
 - **At any age** if a problem is suspected or detected – refer to the [CHDP Dental Referral Classification Guide](#) <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/publications/Documents/Dental-Classification-Guide.pdf>
 - **Every six (6) months for maintenance of oral health** - visit [Periodicity of Examination, Preventive Dental Services, Anticipatory Guidance, and Oral Treatment for Infants, Children, and Adolescents](#) pp.198-199. http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/BP_Periodicity.pdf
 - **Every three (3) months** for children with documented special health care needs when medical or oral condition can be affected; and for other children at high risk for dental caries. [AAP Oral Health Risk Assessment Tool](#) https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/oralhealth_RiskAssessmentTool.pdf
- To help find a dentist:
 - For a child with Medi-Cal, contact Denti-Cal at 1-800-322-6384 or visit the [Denti-Cal Provider Referral List](#) https://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/Beneficiaries/Denti-Cal/Provider_Referral_List/
 - For families with or without Medi-Cal, the local CHDP program can assist in finding a dentist. Visit the [Child Health and Disability Prevention \(CHDP\) Program's County Offices List](#) to contact your local CHDP program. <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>

* The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy is to establish a dental home by age one “[Maintaining and Improving the Oral Health of Young Children](#)”:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/6/1224> The “[American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry \(AAPD\) Periodicity Guidelines](#)” emphasizes the importance of very early professional intervention and continuity of care beginning with the eruption of the first tooth and no later than 12 months of age. http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/BP_Periodicity.pdf

** See [Medicaid Clinical Guidelines Keep Kids Smiling: Promoting Oral Health](#), p. 5 <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/downloads/keep-kids-smiling.pdf>. For Medi-Cal eligible children, Denti-Cal will cover preventive services (exam, topical fluoride application, and prophylaxis) once in a six-month period and more frequently if there is a documented necessity. Denti-Cal has adopted the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's (AAPD) “[Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Oral Health Care](#)” which indicates frequencies for diagnostic and preventive procedures: https://www.denti-cal.ca.gov/DC_documents/beneficiaries/dental_periodicity_sched_for_children.pdf.

*** Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program/Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSTD)