

Connecticut Dental Health Partnership Fact Sheet for Primary Care Providers

What is it?	The Connecticut Dental Health Partnership (CTDHP) is the dental plan provided by the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) to its clients in the four primary medical assistance programs. All of the State's dental programs were combined into one program with a focus on improving access to care and building a better oral health system. CTDHP began on 9/1/2008.		
Who is Covered?	<p>Over 643,000 residents are covered, which makes this the state's largest dental plan. About half of the beneficiaries are children. That is one in four of Connecticut's children and about one in seven of all of the state's residents. The groups covered include clients in these DSS medical assistance programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families Medicaid (HUSKY A) Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP (HUSKY B) Medicaid/Title XIX/Fee-for-Service (HUSKY C) Medicaid for Low Income Adults, MLIA (HUSKY D) 		
What is Covered?	<p>The CTDHP provides comprehensive dental coverage. Included services are preventative (fluoride varnish, sealants), diagnostic (exams, x-rays), restorative (fillings, crowns) and oral surgery (extractions). Orthodontia (braces) are provided to children under the age of twenty-one who meet the minimum handicapping malocclusion score. Cosmetic procedures and implants are not covered. There is some cost sharing for HUSKY B clients for services such as restorative, root canal treatments, partial dentures, oral surgery and orthodontia.</p>		
What's Different?	<p>CTDHP is focused on improving access to care, educating clients about oral health, building self sufficiency and reducing barriers to participation. CTDHP works to instill the concept of a primary care dentist (PCD) and the importance of each client having a Dental Home. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to a dentist by the child's first birthday to develop good oral health habits and care.</p> <p>Care Coordination and Case Management are provided through a team of seven Dental Health Care Specialists (DHCS), six who cover specific regions and one who works with Clients who have Special Health Care Needs (SHCN). Two are bilingual. Health care providers and community agencies can refer clients to CTDHP for this service. Special outreach initiatives are focused on prenatal clients, under-utilizers and clients with SHCN. There is educational outreach focused on increasing client knowledge and appreciation of oral health as well as encouraging responsible behaviors.</p> <p>A bilingual client-focused call center, located in the state, concentrates on client services including referrals to dentists, appointment scheduling assistance and transportation scheduling (for most clients). Clients are encouraged to contact the call center so that they can receive education in the importance of oral health, establishing a Dental Home and maintaining good oral healthcare. Provider relations staff work to ease administrative burdens for dental providers, who want to participate, assist in prior authorization requests and serve as a resource to those already in the system.</p> <p>Pediatric dental fees are on par with commercial rates of reimbursement. Adult rates were raised slightly and are set at 52% of children's rates. There are currently 1800 dental providers in network.</p>		
How You Can Help	<p>CTDHP recognizes the important relationship between oral and overall health and works to encourage the partnership of dental and medical providers in keeping our clients healthy. <u>Here's what you as a primary care provider can do to help:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your patients the last time they saw a dentist. Ask them if they are having any problems in their mouth. Advise them of the importance of maintaining good oral health Be aware of the links between oral infection and other health problems. Refer your patients to CTDHP or their dental plan for a dental home. Work with your patient's dentist if their condition warrants. 		
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