

Table 21.4 CHDP/EPSTD PPERIODICITY 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/oral assessment is required at every CHDP/EPSTD*** health assessment regardless of age.
- Refer children directly to a dentist:
 - **Beginning at age one** as required by California Health and Safety Code Section 124040 (6)(D) https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=124040.
 - **At any age** if a problem is suspected or detected – See CHDP Dental Referral Classifications <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/publications/Documents/CMS/pm160dentalguide.pdf>
 - **Every six (6) months for maintenance of oral health** See pp.13-15 <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/ombp/medicaid/mts/documents/epsdtcoverageguide.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 carries.
- To help find a dentist:
 - For a child with Medi-Cal, contact Denti-Cal at 1-800-322-6384 or https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/Contact_Us/
 - For families with or without Medi-Cal, the local CHDP program can assist in finding a dentist. <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:

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/134/6/1224.full.pdf>

** See Medicaid Clinical Guidelines, P.5, <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/keep-kids-smiling.pdf>

For Medi-Cal eligible children, Denti-Cal will cover preventative 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 Preventative Pediatric Oral Health Care” which indicates frequencies for diagnostic and preventative procedures:

https://www.dental.dhcs.ca.gov/MCD_documents/providers/provider_bulletins/Volume_37_Number_07.pdf

The AAPD emphasizes the importance of very early professional intervention and the 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/G_Periodicity.pdf

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