

## **AB 1670 (Arambula)- Development Disabilities Oral Health Services: Behavioral Management, By Report**

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**Subject:** Talking Points Development Disabilities Oral Health Services: Behavior Management, By Report.

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### **Background Summary:**

Children and adults with developmental disabilities are at a greater risk of developing dental disease than the general population.

It has long been recognized that people with developmental disabilities experience many barriers to adequate oral healthcare due to some of the following identified challenges:

- unique neuromuscular and other physical disabilities associated with specific developmental disabilities,
- behavioral challenges associated with fear and anxiety around oral health procedures, and
- the extended time required to implement dental procedures.
- hyper-sensitivity to sounds and lighting and other environmental stimulus.

In 2018 the Medi-Cal Dental program began a new dental service, Behavior Management By Report, intended to provide supplemental care procedures necessary to meet the special needs of patients who have a physical, behavioral, developmental or emotional condition that prohibits them from adequately responding to a provider's attempts to perform a dental visit.

The regional center dental coordinators have identified the following barriers to this service:

- Dentist and RDHAPs are unable to bill for this service provided if the patient is unable to have a successful visit that accompanies another needed dental service.
- This means the dentist or other oral health professional risks providing costly services without reimbursement.

### **What the Bill Does:**

Removes the requirement that the Behavior Management, By Report service, is only payable when accompanied by another covered dental procedure during the same treatment session.

It allows Behavior Management service to be provided as a stand-alone service up to 3 times in a 12-month period.

By the fourth use of code D9920 Behavior Management, By Report, the procedure must accompany a billable dental procedure.

**Fiscal Impact:** Unknown, cost pressures include people receiving services that they were unable to receive due to limited access to sedated oral health service. Cost offsets include savings from requiring less oral health sedation and surgery services due to accessing less intrusive support.