



In Major Victory for Dental Patients, Gov. Brown Signs SB 1008: The Dental Plan Transparency Act

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SACRAMENTO, Calif. — On Saturday, Gov. Jerry Brown signed SB 1008 by State Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) in a major victory for dental patients and providers. SB 1008 supports a patient's choice of provider and helps level the playing field for providers and patients.

"Signing this bill into law is an unqualified victory for dental plan patients in California. Patients deserve to have clear, understandable information about their dental plans," said CDA President Natasha Lee, DDS. "As providers, we all too often see patients in our offices struggle to understand what procedures are and are not covered. We aim to stop that and ensure patients get the care they need with SB 1008."

Dr. Lee continued: "I want to thank Gov. Brown for signing SB 1008 and State Sen. Skinner for working with her colleagues to pass this important reform."

As of Jan. 1, 2021, state law will require standardized disclosures for all dental benefit plans using a uniform Summary of Benefits and Coverage template, which will include covered services, reimbursement levels, estimated enrollee cost share, limitations and exceptions.

The standardized form will help purchasers and patients better understand and evaluate their options for dental coverage. What's more, requiring dental plans to meet the same transparency standards as medical plans allows dentists to better understand their patients' benefits and educate and counsel them when planning treatment.

About the California Dental Association

The California Dental Association is the nonprofit organization representing organized dentistry in California. Founded in 1870, CDA is committed to the success of our members in service to their patients and the public. CDA also contributes to the oral health of Californians through various comprehensive programs and advocacy. CDA's membership consists of more than 27,000 dentists, making it the largest constituent of the American Dental Association. For more information, visit cda.org.

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