

# Dyadic Services: Medi-Cal Whole Family Behavioral Health Support

**EARLY SERVICES TO ADDRESS CHILDREN’S EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

*Dyadic services are a Medi-Cal behavioral health benefit for children and youth under age 21. These services support the child and their parent or caregiver at the same time. This approach recognizes that a child’s emotional and behavioral health is closely connected to the well-being of their caregiver.*

## Why dyadic services are important

Dyadic services help families:

- Identify concerns early.
- Support healthy child development.
- Strengthen parent-child relationships.
- Prevent behavioral health concerns from getting worse.



Eligibility	Details
Child or youth	Under age 21 and enrolled in Medi-Cal.
Parent or caregiver	Participates in services with the child or youth.
Caregiver	Does not need Medi-Cal coverage as long as the services support the child or youth.

**Questions?**  
 Contact  
 Provider Services at  
 800-675-6110

## Eligible providers

Dyadic services are provided by trained, licensed medical and behavioral health professionals, or by associate-level clinicians working under supervision. Eligible providers include, but are not limited to:

- Physicians
- Psychiatrists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Psychologists

Community Health Workers may support services when permitted and under the supervision of an eligible provider.

For a complete list of eligible provider types, refer to the Dyadic Services and Family Therapy Frequently Asked Questions at [https://bit.ly/CalAIM\\_FAQs](https://bit.ly/CalAIM_FAQs).

## Dyadic services covered under Medi-Cal



### Dyadic behavioral health well-child visit

- A behavioral health visit that focuses on emotional, developmental and family needs.
- Not included in a routine medical well-child visit.
- If possible, provided on the same day or close in time to the medical visit.



### Dyadic psychoeducational services

- Education and coaching on child development, emotions and behavior.
- Supports early prevention and reduces concerns.



### Family training and counseling for child development

- Short-term counseling or training for the child and caregiver together.
- Focuses on:
  - Parenting strategies.
  - Child behavior.
  - Positive parent-child interactions.

## Care settings for dyadic services

- **Integrated provider sites**, such as:
  - Community health centers
  - Federally Qualified Health Centers
  - Certain pediatric primary care and clinic settings
- These sites may provide:
  - Medical well-child visit and dyadic behavioral health (DBH) visit on the same day or close in time.
  - Deliver ongoing dyadic services when appropriate.
- **Non-integrated provider sites** may:
  - Start dyadic services during the medical well-child visit.
  - Refer families to behavioral health providers for DBH visits or additional dyadic services.

## Additional resources

- UCSF Center for Advancing Dyadic Care in Pediatrics: <https://dyadiccare.ucsf.edu/>
- HealthySteps: [www.healthysteps.org](http://www.healthysteps.org)