

Health First  
Colorado

Dental Annual Report  
SFY25

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A summary of financial and operating activity for the Health First Colorado Dental Program administered by DentaQuest, LLC, for the period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

# Health First Colorado, Dental Program Annual Report

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## Executive Summary

This Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) Dental Program ("the Program") Annual Report provides program results for the state fiscal year (SFY) spanning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. DentaQuest (DQ) has administered the adult and child Dental Program on behalf of the State of Colorado since July 2014, and we have had the privilege to administer the services for members enrolled in the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver since July 1, 2015.

The Department maintains the Health First Colorado dental provider network and retains authority over rate setting and policy development for the Program. DentaQuest operationalizes the Department's policies; processes and pays claims on the state's behalf; authorizes services; supports and educates providers and members; staffs and manages a customer contact center to assist both groups; and performs additional services as requested by the Department.

This report includes relevant financial and operational data, trends related to members served, services delivered, provider claims activity, and overall service costs.

### Key data for the standard plan includes:

- 554,052 unique individuals received services from July 2024 to June 2025.
- DentaQuest processed and paid over 1,667,481 million claims.
- Over \$440 million was paid to 1,890 unique providers for services rendered.
- DentaQuest outreached to CHP and Medicaid members carrying out a combined 101 virtual presentations and provided direct advocacy to resolve 350 member issues.
- The average per member per month (PMPM) cost was \$42.75 for children, \$43.55 for adults and \$26.45 for DD members.

## Data Used for this Report

Tables, charts, and analyses presented in this annual report are based on claims, authorization, caseload, and utilization data that were acquired, stored, and maintained within DentaQuest systems at the time of publication. As a result, comparisons between these data elements and similar data sources outside of DentaQuest's control may show variances. The only exception is provider enrollment data, which was supplied by HCPF as of October 2025.

## DD Waiver Members

On July 1, 2015, DentaQuest began claims administration of the Colorado Health Care Policy and Financing Department, for Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver Programs. Previously, the Department adjudicated claims for this population. The DD program differs from the standard Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) in the benefits offered and the reimbursement fees. Also, DD members must first exhaust their available state plan (standard adult) benefits before accessing their DD benefits. The DD benefits package overlaps but is different from the standard adult benefit.

Providers submit DD member claims the same way all other claims are submitted. DentaQuest applies the correct fee schedule and adjudicates claims through two different programs for proper payment. The Office Reference Manual and the Provider Representatives are additional resources for questions about the program. Table 1 shows the DD program summary.

DD Summary	SFY20	SFY21	SFY22	SFY23	SFY24	SFY25
Members	11,235	11,665	12,378	14,473	13,062*	13,117
Utilizers	6,639	6,619	7,315	5,992	6,946*	6,486
Total Claims Paid (state plan and waiver)	\$4,900,598	\$5,703,045	\$6,265,891	\$7,810,578	\$9,873,150*	\$8,008,426

Table 1

## Adult Members

In 2013, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper signed into law SB 13-242, a bill authorizing a limited adult dental benefit; however, CO Legislature removed annual maximum benefits as of July 1, 2023.

## Caseload and Utilization

Caseload increased for adults and children. 554,052 unique members received dental Services. Caseload (the number of eligible Health First Colorado members per month, or “member months”) is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

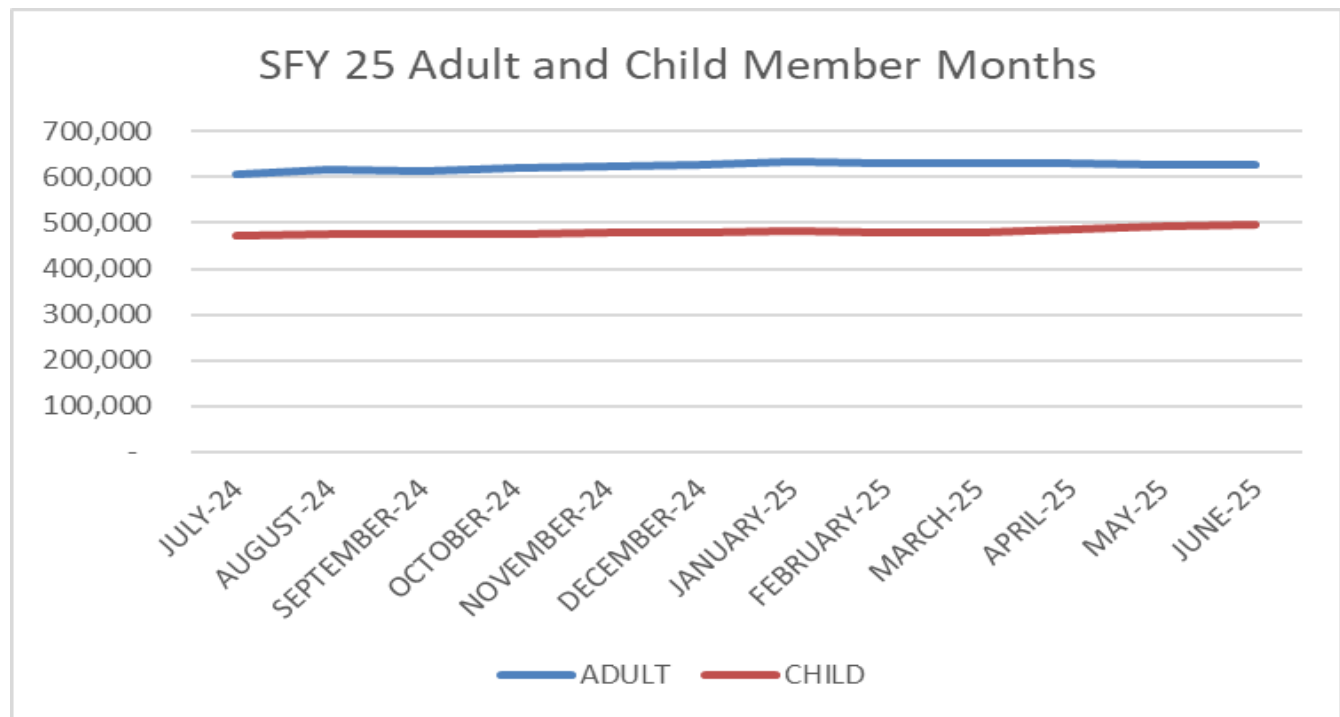
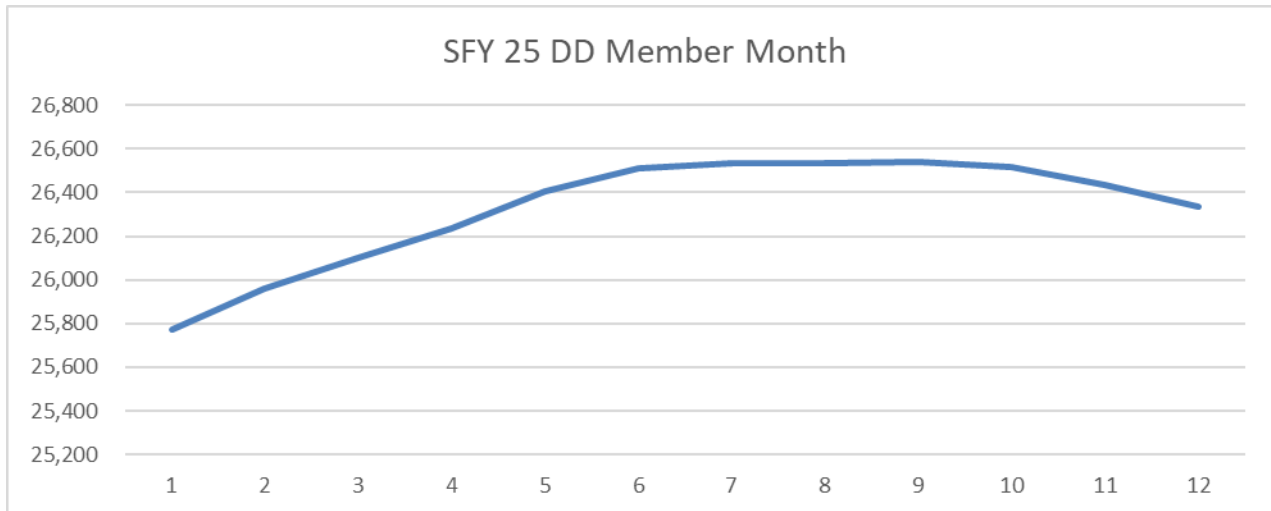


Figure 1 Adult and Child Member Months



**Figure 2 DD Member Months**

Federal laws declaring a State of Emergency generally forbid the normal recalculation of member eligibility. This resulted in higher-than-expected member months throughout the fiscal year. Table 2 shows the Unique Members by Program.

Unique Members by Program	
Adult	785,419
Child	596,818
DD	8,151

**Table 2 Unique Members by Program**

Most, but not all, Health First Colorado enrolled members are eligible for the Dental Program administered by DentaQuest. The Department determines which Health First Colorado eligibility “groups” are eligible for dental benefits, in compliance with State statutes and rules.

Not all members eligible for benefits seek and receive services. When a member receives at least one dental service, they are considered a utilizer of the program. Table 3 shows annual utilizers by program through the past 6 years. Table 4 shows the monthly member access rate for this fiscal year.

Member Utilization by Program						
Member Type	SFY20	SFY21	SFY22	SFY23	SFY 24	SFY25
Adult Member Utilizers	194,787	195,390	241,015	261,049	260,802	230,229
Adult access rate	24%	24%	25%	26%	28%	34%
Child member utilizers	308,968	309,611	354,436	374,039	373,728	315,173
Child access rate	48%	48%	51%	52%	57%	52%
DD member utilizers	6,639	6,619	7,315	7,523	6,946	8,650
DD access rate	60%	57%	59%	58%	62%	61%

Table 3 Member Utilization by Program per SFY (Unique members utilizing at least one dental service.)

Member Monthly Access Rate												
	July-24	Aug 24	Sept-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	April-25	May-25	June-25
Child	11.66%	11.76%	10.55%	12.19%	10.0%	9.47%	11.22%	10.78%	11.73%	11.52%	10.35%	10.82%
Adult	6.87%	7.04%	6.79%	7.38%	6.19%	6.02%	6.66%	6.50%	6.69%	7.03%	6.56%	6.44%
DD	4.17%	4.36%	4.28%	5.37%	4.56%	5.78%	6.64%	6.30%	6.85%	7.37%	6.65%	6.43%

Table 4 Monthly Access Rate by Program

The Health First Colorado dental program offers benefits to members who have Medicare A and/or B and State Plan Medicaid. The number of these members who received at least one dental service is shown in Table 5.

Member Utilization – QMB & SLMB	
QMB	2,669
SLMB	1,982

Table 5 Monthly Access Rate by Program

An age breakdown of utilizers per age group and program is shown in Table 6 below:

Utilizers by Age and Program	
Age	Utilizers
Less than 1	6,393
1-2	32,619
3-5	55,083
6-9	78,655
10-14	88,280
15-18	59,956
19-20	17,761
21-55 (Adult)	181,813
55-60 (Adult)	17,831
61 and over (Adult)	32,398
21-55 (DD)	6,456
55-60 (DD)	520
61 and over (DD)	859

Table 6 Unique Utilizers by age and program

The distribution of the number of visits per utilizer (unique member) is shown in Figure 3. Preventative care is a significant component of Member Outreach and Education.

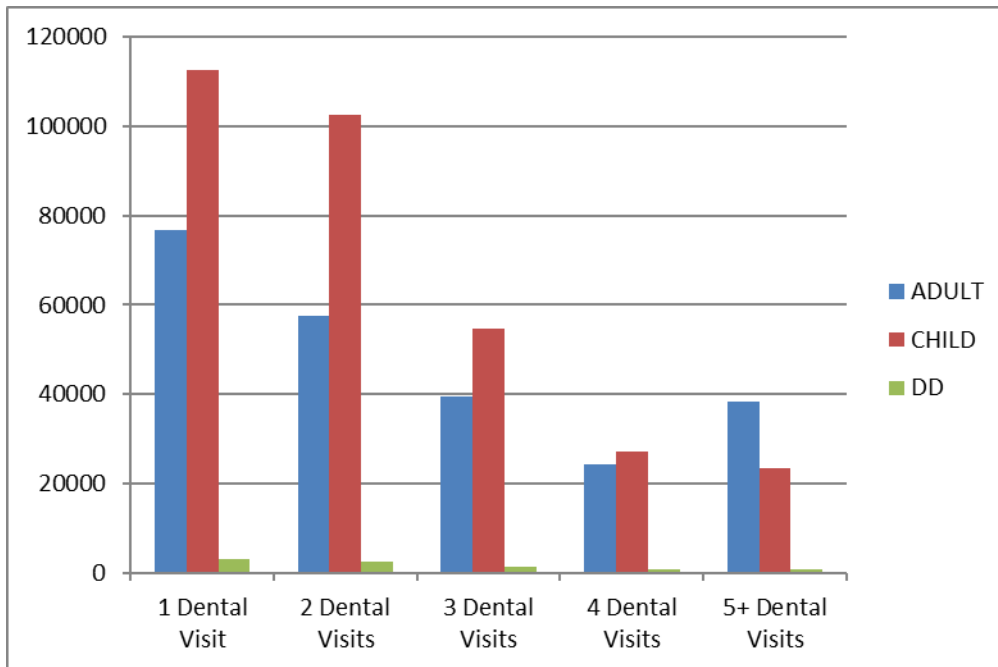


Figure 3 Adult, Child, and DD Member Visit Frequency

### Category of Service Data

Dental services are categorized by types of services (preventive restorative, etc.). The following graphs (Figures 4, 5, and 6) show the change in the category of services between state fiscal years.

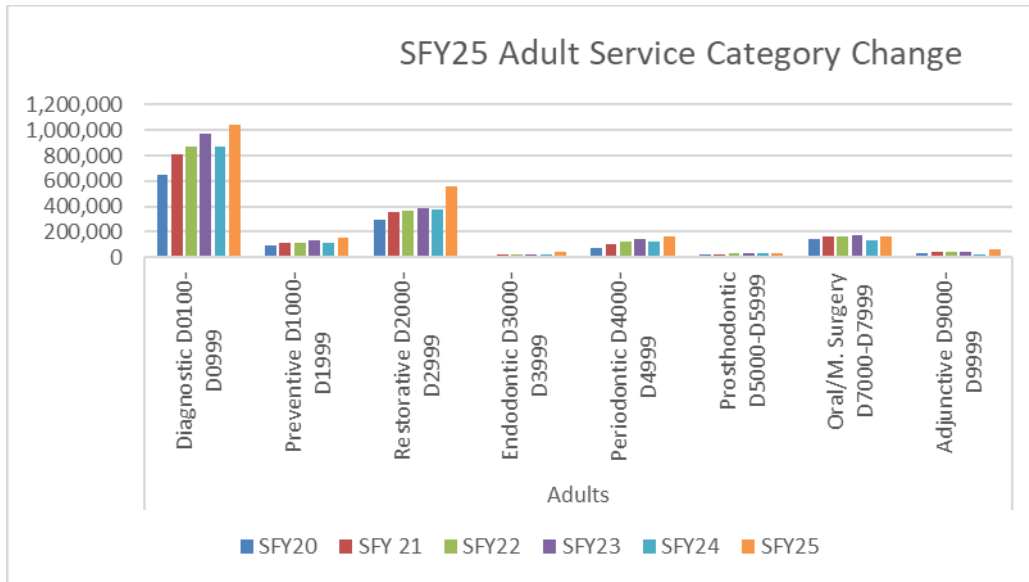


Figure 4 Adult Service Category Changes (number of individual service codes paid)

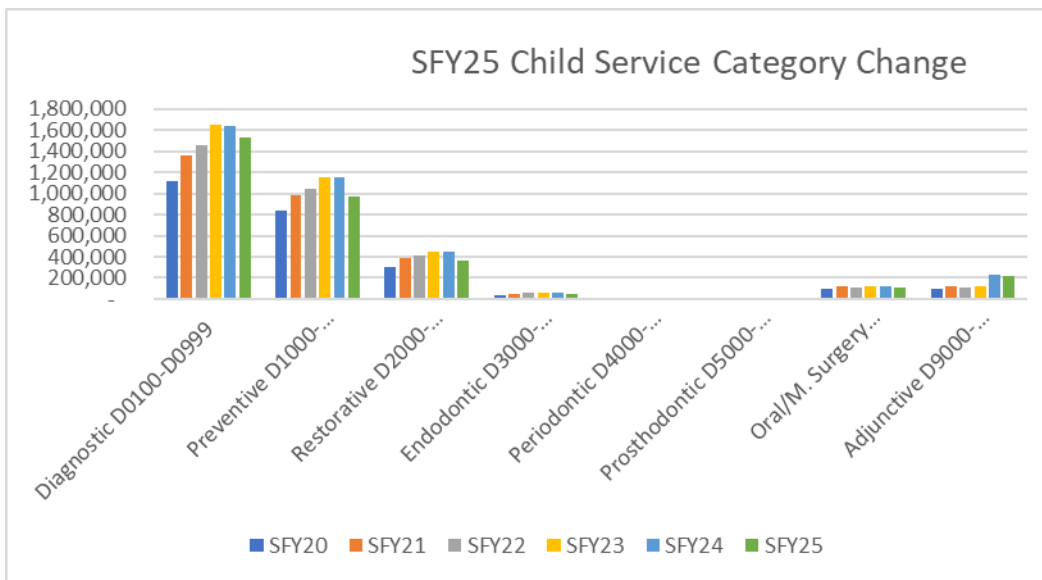


Figure 5 Child Category of Service Changes (number of individual service codes paid)



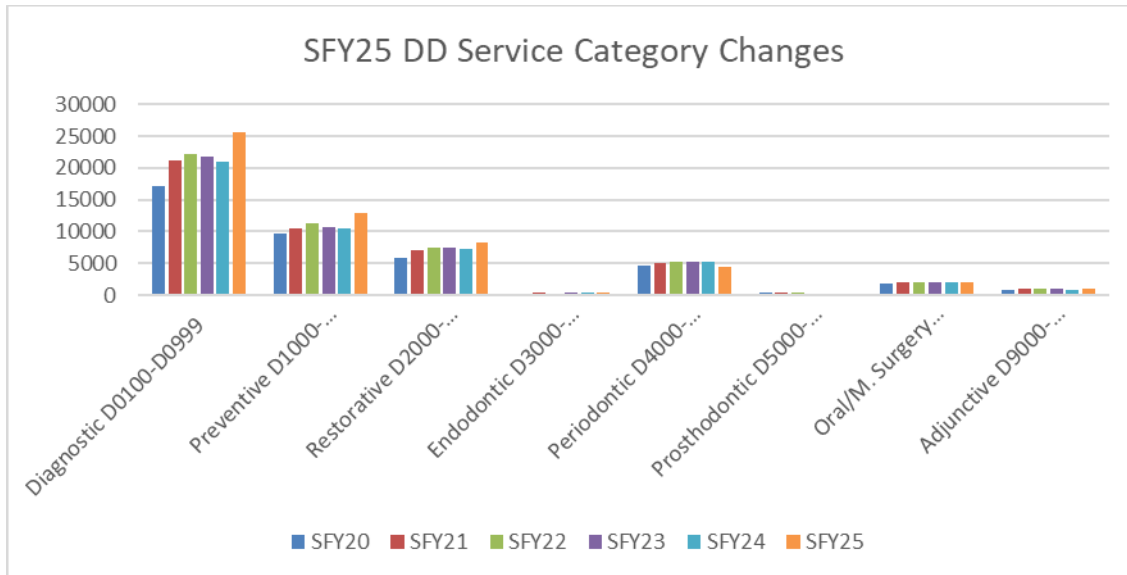


Figure 6 DD Category of Service Changes in Waiver Benefit only (number of individual services paid). *This number does not include state plan services accessed by Waiver member.*

### Cost Distribution

The average per member per month (PMPM) cost was \$42.75 for children, and \$43.55 for adults. The cost distribution among service categories is not correlated to the number of services rendered. Each dental service is individually priced by the Department, with relative costs like the commercial dental markets.

For all three programs, the highest cost category is Restorative services. The child program is the only one which offers an Orthodontic benefit; it is the third-highest cost category for children. The DD costs are for waiver services only; they do not include adult state plan services rendered to DD members. DD members utilize benefits from the adult state plan program before they access waiver benefits. This is where the bulk of their diagnostic and restorative services are paid from. The cost distribution by program and service category is shown in Figures 7, 8, and 9. The legend for these figures is shown in Table 7.

Legend for Figures 7, 8, and 9		
Category	Code Range	Examples
Diagnostic	D0100-D0999	Exams, x-rays, diagnostic casts
Preventive	D1000-D1999	Cleaning, fluoride, sealants
Restorative	D2000-D2999	Fillings, crowns
Endodontics	D3000-D3999	Root canals
Periodontics	D4000-D4999	Gum treatments, bone grafting, deep cleanings
Prosthodontic	D5000-D5999	Full and partial dentures
Implants	D6000-D6999	Dental implants
Oral/Maxillofacial surgery	D7000-D7999	Extractions, surgery
Orthodontic	D8000-D8999	Braces, retainers
Adjunctive	D9000-D9999	Anesthesia, sedation, mouth guards

Table 7 Legend for Dental Service Categories and Procedures

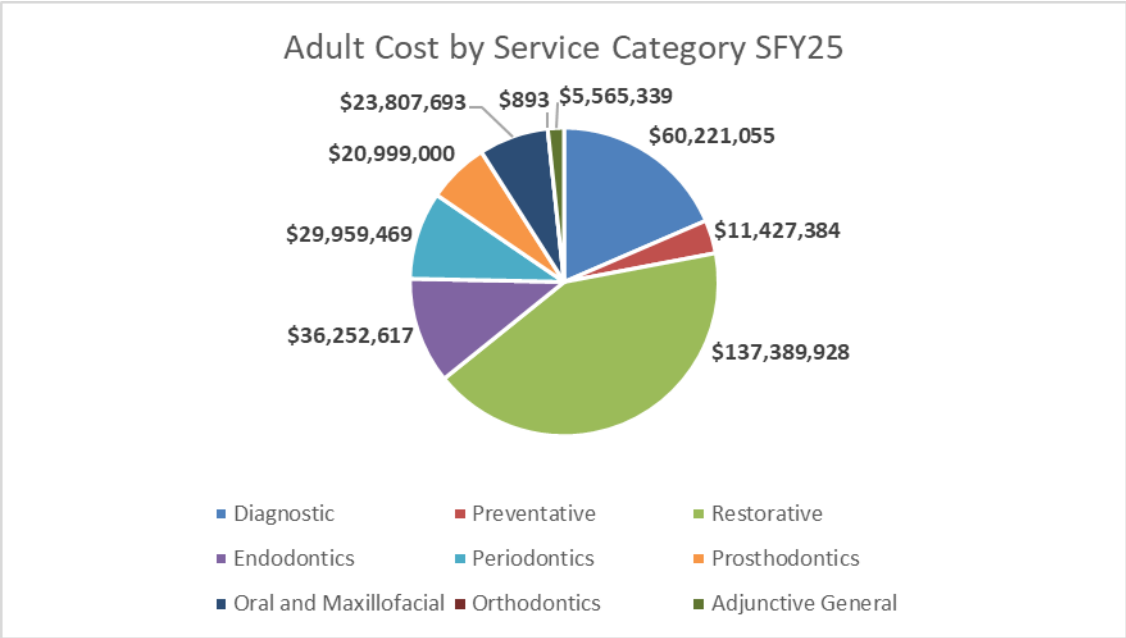


Figure 7 Adult Cost Distribution over Service Categories

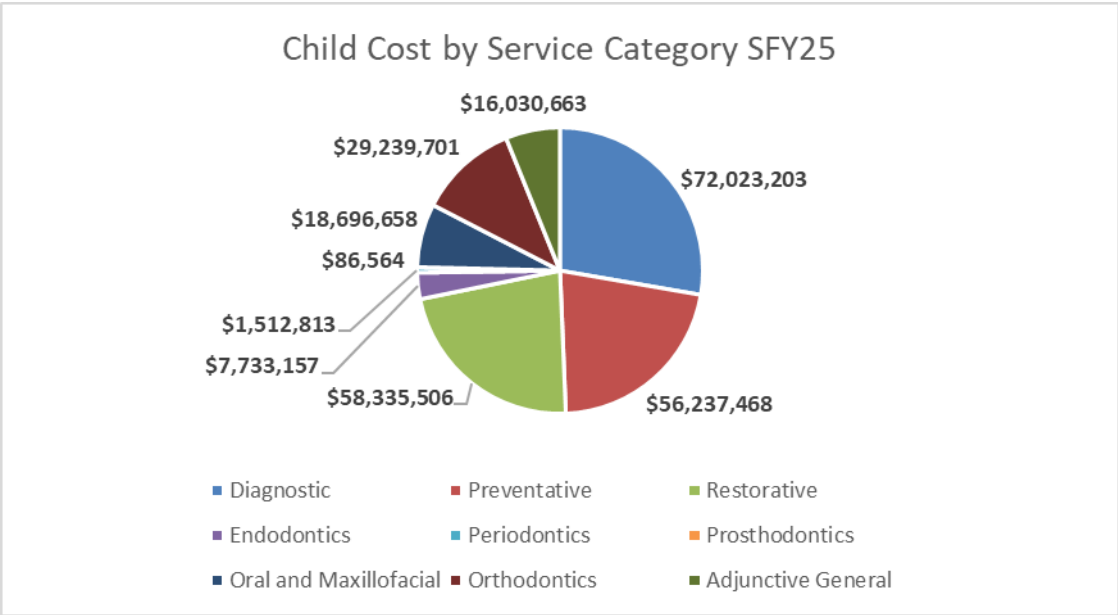


Figure 8 Child Cost Distribution over Service Categories

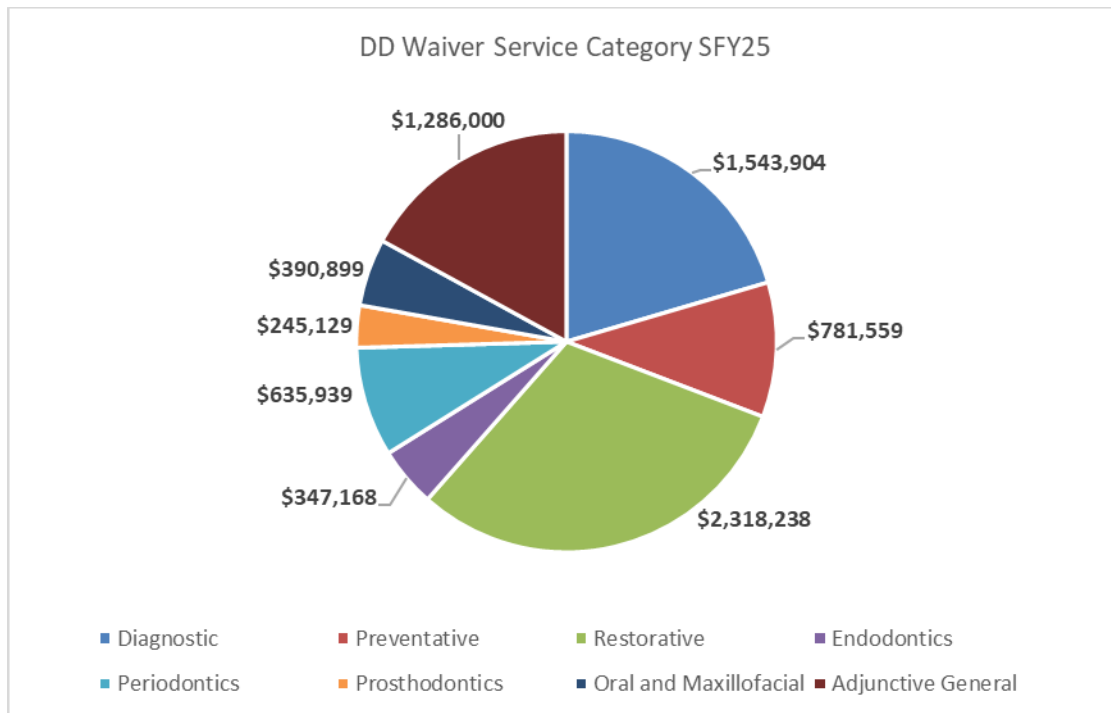


Figure 9 DD Cost Distribution over Service Categories (waiver services only)

## Contact Center

*The Contact Center answered over 51,165 calls from members and providers.*

DentaQuest operates several contact centers, including one in Colorado for Health First Colorado members and providers. The Contact Center representatives are trained in the Health First Colorado Dental Program benefits and requirements. The DentaQuest Colorado Contact Center's hours mirror Health First Colorado's Contact Center hours.

An Interactive voice Response (IVR) telephone system is available 24/7 to both providers and members to check member eligibility claims, benefits, history, and authorization status.

In SFY24-25, DentaQuest answered 31,656 member calls and 19,500 provider calls (Table 8).

Member and Provider Calls		
	Member Calls	Provider Calls
SFY19	30,401	36,468
SFY20	25,083	36,907
SFY21	28,896	30,760
SFY22	29,364	23,056
SFY23	30,166	19,644
SFY24	33,329	21,900
SFY 25	31,665	19,500

Table 8 Member and Provider Calls Answered

DentaQuest's Contact Center supports the needs of the diverse Health First Colorado member population, including a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) and hearing impaired, access to bilingual (English and Spanish) representatives, and translation services for over 50 languages. Table

9 presents the Contact Center’s annual summary of calls and shows the key measures for members and providers.

Phone Contact Center Summary				
	Calls Answered	Average Answer Time in Seconds	Abandonment Rate after 60 seconds	Hold Time in seconds
<b>Performance Requirements (member calls only)</b>		≤ 30 seconds	< 5.0%	< 5 minutes
<b>Members</b>	30,414	26	1.2%	20
<b>Providers</b>	19,043	9	0.3%	N/A

Table 9 Contact Center Phone Summary

## Other Communication Channels

### *Website*

While the telephone is the most common way to reach the Contact Center, providers may also email through the provider portal. Contact Center staff responds to emails throughout the year. DentaQuest maintains a Health first Colorado Dental Program-specific website, with member and provider pages, which can be found [here](#).

### *Member Pages*

Member pages include a downloadable member handbook in English and Spanish, a link to DentaQuest’s “Find-A-Dentist” search tool, a calendar of outreach events, oral health educational materials and other information. The “Find-A-Dentist” tool enables users to search for a Health First Colorado participating provider using a variety of flexible criteria including distance office, provider name/specialty, the languages spoken at the office, if the provider can accommodate special needs, if the office is disability accessible, and if the provider is accepting new patients.

### *Member Portal*

A secure member portal which allows members to log into their member account and use the portal to chat live with a customer service representative, find a provider with the “Find-A- Dentist” search tool, submit an appeal or grievance, print their ID card, or update their personal information and more. Guardians can securely access information on behalf of their charges, and parents can access the accounts of their children, provided they are also members of the program. This tool provides another point of access to information that helps members better utilize the Health First Colorado dental benefits.

### *Provider Pages*

The provider pages include links to the Health First Colorado Dental Program’s Office Reference Manual (ORM), fee schedules, provider newsletters, updates on projects that impact providers, and other provider resources. The ORM is discussed in detail in the Providers section of this report.

### *Provider Portal*

DentaQuest offers a secure portal for providers to use for the submission of electronic claims. The ORM, special provider communications, and other resources are also available on the provider portal.

## Providers

Providers were paid over \$590 million for services rendered in SFY25.

Health First Colorado dental providers are contracted with the Department, who is responsible for credentialing and enrollment of all providers. DentaQuest is responsible for provider network relationships

and ensuring an adequate network of providers.

### **Office Reference Manual**

The Office Reference Manual (ORM) is a comprehensive single-source resource guide for virtually any question related to the dental program. It includes information on how and where to verify eligibility, submit claims and authorizations, and enroll as a Provider. The ORM clearly outlines the clinical criteria used to evaluate and make a decision based on medical necessity.

The ORM is a living document that provides guidance on billing practices. Updates to the ORM are made quarterly. For example, each year new codes are added based on changes made to the CDT manual (the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature). Throughout the year clarifications are added based on provider questions, new legislation, and changes in Department policies. There were 8 edits made to the ORM for SFY25. All updates are chronicled in a change log and published on the provider web portal.

### **Provider Network Managers, Education and Communication**

In keeping with its goal of providing high touch service, DentaQuest established a team of in-state Network Manager representatives who provide one-on-one assistance to all participating dental providers. This team compliments the other resources available to providers, including the Contact Center provider line, 24-hour Interactive Voice Recognition system, the DentaQuest provider portal, the provider website, and the Office Reference Manual.

Four Network Managers are located geographically throughout the State, including a dedicated FQHC manager as well as a manager living and working on the Western Slope. The Network Managers serve as a trusted business partner, helping providers keep their offices running at peak efficiency. They are responsible for recruiting, training, and educating providers and staff on the provider web portal and other resources available to them. The four Network Managers report to the Network Manager Supervisor. The Supervisor manages workload, escalated provider issues, and is the main liaison with the Department. Additionally, Network Managers visit all new offices in person or virtually to introduce themselves and provide hands-on training. During the provider enrollment and orientation process, the provider and staff are trained on how to use the portal for member benefit usage, prior authorization, claim submission, and payment tracking. The Network Managers also provide an in-depth overview of the ORM to ensure the provider and staff can take advantage of this important tool. The Network Managers have continued engaging with offices through a hybrid approach— combining virtual and in-person visits—with a growing emphasis on increasing the number of in-person interactions. DentaQuest will continue this hybrid approach as it provides offices with the option of choosing what works best for them. The Network Managers are versatile and can pivot themselves to meet their needs at any time. If an office requests a visit in person, we will always oblige. In addition, recurring virtual visits for FQHCs and DSOs are offered and will continue. The cadence is up to each facility and can be monthly, quarterly, or annually. This is used as touch point to discuss plan updates or questions and concerns, they may have in a timely manner.

In addition to personalized services, DentaQuest communicates regularly with providers through quarterly newsletters, written correspondence, fax blasts for time-sensitive information, and updates posted to the provider portal. The Network Managers continue their attendance at The Rocky Mountain Dental Convention, CODHA conference, and the CU School of Dentistry fair.

### **Provider Recruitment**

Provider recruitment is a continuing part of the duties of Network Managers. Network Managers take advantage of every opportunity to recruit new providers to the Health First Colorado dental provider network. Part of the recruiting process is for the Provider Representatives to visit prospective offices to discuss becoming a Health First Colorado provider and following up on leads provided by providers and community stakeholders. Network Managers have focused on a comprehensive approach to recruiting providers in their regions based on Geo Access reporting. In addition to recruitment, validation efforts were also made (ensure they are still accepting new Medicaid and CHP+ members).

The breakout of dental providers is listed in Table 10. The number of active providers was determined by the Department using different methodologies for each fiscal year. Therefore, care should be taken when making comparisons between fiscal years.

## Provider Recruitment

Health First Colorado Active Dental Providers	
Specialty Designation of Active Providers	Count
Endodontists	50
General Practitioner	1004
Hygienist	325
Oral Surgeon	70
Orthodontist	194
Pedodontist	214
Prosthodontist	12
Public Health	21
Total	<b>1890</b>

Table 10 Active Providers by Specialty Designation \*Determined by HCPF in October 25

## Provider Maps of Enrolled Locations by Type of County (Urban, Rural, Frontier)

The following maps show the locations of enrolled providers and the distance in miles of their “reach” shown in yellow. The Department uses the following time-distance standards to determine provider network adequacy – 30 miles in urban counties, 45 miles in rural counties, and 60 miles in frontier counties (Figures 10, 11, and 12).

## Provider Map

Created by...

DentaQuest

www.dentaquest.com

### CO General Dentists

2,673 providers at 1,204 locations

■ Single providers (373)  
✕ Multiple providers (831)

○ 30 mile radius

46.73 miles

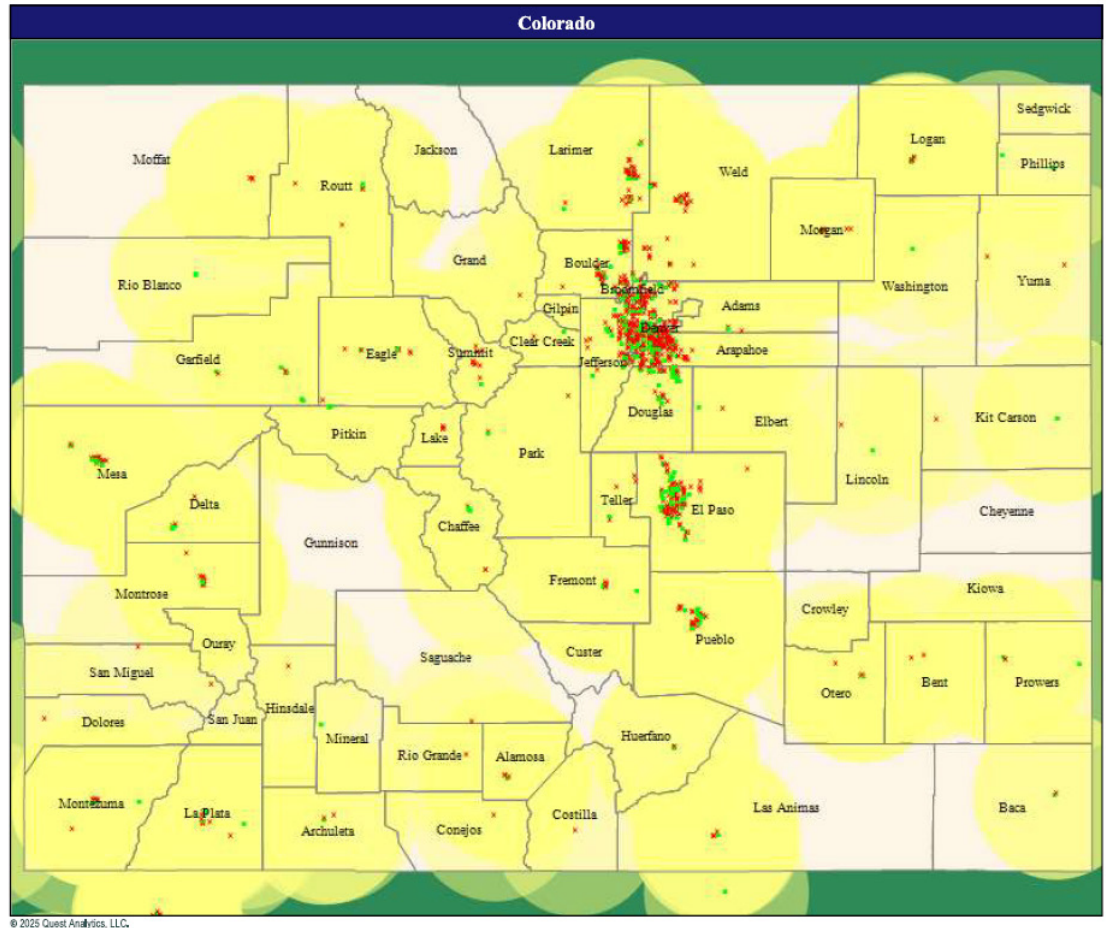


Figure 10 Provider Map Urban Location (30 miles)



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**DentaQuest**  
[www.dentaquest.com](http://www.dentaquest.com)

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**CO General Dentists**  
 2,673 providers at 1,204 locations  
 ■ Single providers (373)  
 × Multiple providers (831)  
 ○ 45 mile radius

46.73 miles

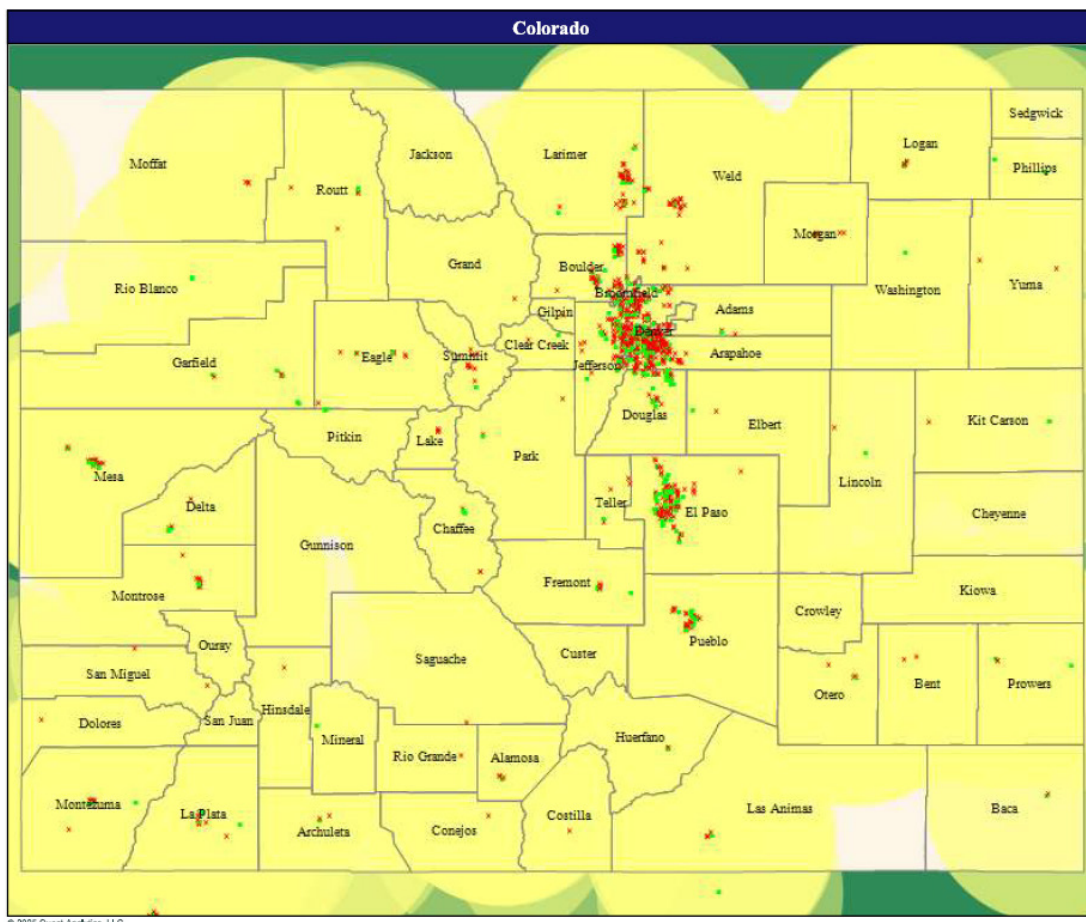


Figure 11 Provider Map Rural Location (45 miles)



## Provider Map

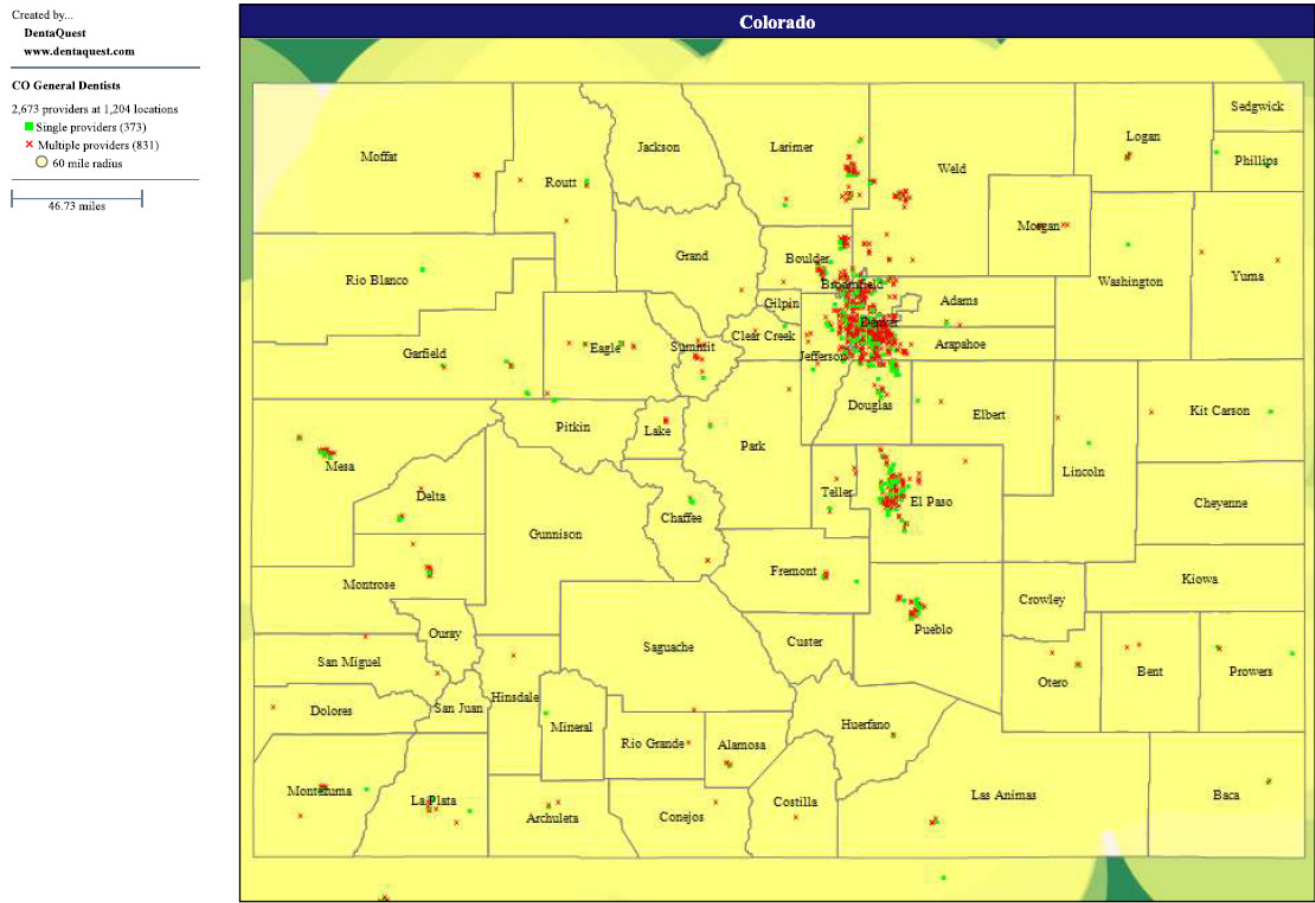


Figure 12 Provider Map Frontier Location (60 miles)

## Utilization Management

*In SFY25, DentaQuest reviewed 924,449 Adult, 255,319 Child and 47,457 DD service requests for medical necessity and appropriateness of care.*

An effective utilization management (UM) program safeguards Health First Colorado resources by ensuring services delivered to members are medically necessary, consistent with the Department's policies, clinical criteria and delivered as efficiently as possible. The DentaQuest UM team includes clinical review specialists (dental hygienists and assistants) and licensed dentists with a variety of specialties trained to apply these policies and criteria correctly and consistently.

## Prior Authorization (PARs)

The Department in consultation with DentaQuest determines which services should be reviewed for medical necessity before being performed. This is referred to as "Prior Authorization." The service codes requiring PAR and supporting documentation are identified in the ORM.

## Review Process

DentaQuest's claims processing system, Windward, uses a sophisticated series of algorithms, based on Health First Colorado program specifications, to determine if the request will be auto-approved, auto-denied, pending for additional documentation, or reviewed by a clinical review specialist (CRS). If the request is auto approved or denied, Windward automatically generates a determination notice. In

addition, decisions are posted on the provider web portal.

If the request cannot be auto decided based on the algorithms in the UM database of Winward, the prior authorization is forwarded to a CRS for review.

The CRS will examine the request, proposed treatment plan and required documentation. Based on the specifications of the program, the CRS will decide.

If the request is approved following the review by the CRS, the decision will be updated in Windward, and an approval letter will be auto generated for both the member and provider, and consistent with the Department's policies, clinical criteria and delivered as efficiently as possible.

### **Provider Portal**

If the review by the CRS leads to a denial, the case is forwarded to a licensed dentist for review and to decide. The dental consultant will either uphold the denial or update the authorization if it is determined the service meets medical necessity requirements. The decision will be updated in Windward, and denial or approval letter will be auto generated for both the member and provider, and available on the Provider Portal. This decision is available during claims adjudication to ensure the prior authorization record is applied and the clinical standards are carried through to the adjudication process. If there is an approved prior authorization on record, the claim is then forwarded for payment.

For SFY25, the approval rate for PARs was 71% for adult members, 46% for child members, and 37% for DD members. PARs are denied for both clinical and administrative reasons.

Administrative denials are determined for PARs with missing or inaccurate information. The average PAR turnaround times were 1.3 business days for adults, 2.3 business days for children, and 1.3 business days for DD members.

### **Pre-Payment Review (PPR)**

To allow greater freedom for providers to appropriately treat a member in a timely manner, DentaQuest performs pre-payment review (PPR) on many types of service codes instead of requiring a PAR.

PPR maintains the same fiscal and program integrity afforded by the PAR process but enables the provider to move forward with rendering services without the delay of a PAR. When a service code has a PPR designation, rather than a PAR designation, a provider can treat the member and submit the required documentation with the claim for reimbursement after the services have been rendered.

DentaQuest then completes a medical necessity review using the same clinical criteria as a service with a PAR. This option also reduces barriers to care for members, as they do not have to make multiple trips to the dental office to receive services.

The Covered Services Benefit Tables in the ORM list which services are available for PPR, which services require PAR, and what documentation is required. The approval rate for PPRs in SFY25 was 58% for adult members, 87% for child members, and 45% for DD members.

### **Claims**

*DentaQuest processed 1,667,481 Health First Colorado dental claims in SFY25.*

DentaQuest's claims processing system, Windward, contains thousands of edits to adjudicate dental claims in a sophisticated and client—focused manner. Windward is customizable for each market we serve. The result is that Windward adjudicates Health First Colorado claims with robust dental-specific business rules (often referred to as "system edits") that help prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and ultimately offers states appropriate management of state and federal dollars.

### **Claims Processing System**

Claims are sent through an initial adjudication process that occurs in real time. If claims process successfully, they drop to a pay status immediately with no further manual intervention. Claims needing additional attention are managed through an “in-process claims” workflow. A small percentage of Colorado claims require manual intervention, such as those that require retrospective clinical review. These include orthodontia, and some oral surgery, extraction, and crown services. Windward’s high auto-adjudication rate translates into faster payments to Colorado Health First Colorado providers.

### Accuracy and Speed of Processing

DentaQuest adjudicates claims within a week, and often sooner. Claims accuracy is measured by the total number of claims or service lines processed correctly divided by the total number of claims or service lines. Financial accuracy is measured by the total claim dollars paid correctly divided by the total claim dollars paid. Anytime a claim needs to be reprocessed for any reason, including retroactive fee adjustments, the numbers are negatively affected.

### Clinical Edits

Windward includes more than 13,000 system edits, or safeguards, to ensure claims are processed according to the Program benefit design and to help control claim costs incurred by the Program. Windward can cross-reference dental procedures for each member, preventing duplicate or inappropriate payments. For example, Windward will deny payment for fillings and crowns on teeth that have previously been extracted.

DentaQuest processed 1,667,481 Health First Colorado dental claims in SFY25, and average of 140,243 claims per month. The total amount paid for claims processed was approximately \$590,000 million, an average of \$44.6 million paid per month. A table comparing these figures among state fiscal years is below (Table 11).

Claims Processed and Paid Per Year Report				
Year	Total Claims Processed	Average Monthly Claims Processed	Total Annual Paid	Total Monthly Paid
SFY20	1,364,311	113,693	\$278,238,253	\$23,186,521
SFY21	1,555,334	129,611	\$332,761,230	\$27,730,102
SFY22	1,626,806	135,567	\$349,409,091	\$29,117,424
SFY23	1,743,134	145,261	\$380,256,076.70	\$31,688,066.39
SFY 24	1,682,920	140,243	\$426,985,774	\$35,582,147

<b>SFY 25</b>	1,667,481	138,957	\$590,843,866	\$49,236,988
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Table 11 Claims Processed and Paid Adult and Child Program

The cost per service is shown in Table 12.

	<b>SFY20</b>	<b>SFY21</b>	<b>SFY22</b>	<b>SFY23</b>	<b>SFY24</b>	<b>SFY25</b>
<b>Adult</b>	\$91.37	\$88.00	\$86.77	\$85.98	\$106.21	\$147.16
<b>Child</b>	\$58.50	\$56.99	\$56.46	\$57.15	\$60.50	\$75.02
<b>DD</b>	\$60.80	\$119.27	\$60.78	\$61.07	\$67.09	\$68.30

Table 12 Cost Per Service

## Grievances, Reconsiderations, and Appeals

*DentaQuest processed 560 Grievances and 14,892 Reconsiderations for members and providers.*

Health First Colorado members have the right to file grievance, reconsideration, and an appeal. Providers have the right to grievance, clinical reconsideration, peer-to-peer review, and an appeal.

### Grievances

Grievances are a written or oral expression of dissatisfaction about any matter other than an adverse action (denial). Once a grievance is received, a Complaints and Grievances Specialist investigates and researches the issue(s), compiles findings and records, and sends the case to a dental consultant for review and determination.

Most member grievances are related to quality of care, followed by billing/reimbursement issues. After investigation, it was determined that most were a result of miscommunication between the provider office and the member or member guardian. Out of the 471 member grievances resolved, 104 cases were substantiated. There were 89 Provider grievances resolved with most of them relating to inappropriate member behavior, 52 cases were substantiated.

### Reconsiderations and Peer-to-Peer Review

In SFY25, DentaQuest received 1,046 member reconsiderations and 13,586 provider reconsiderations. A reconsideration may be requested by a provider (or member) for a denied PAR or service, which is a second review by a Dental Director with the same expertise and specialty as the submitting provider. The reconsideration is always performed by a different Dental Director than the one who made the original determination. The second reviewer may uphold the denial, overturn, or request/review additional documentation from the provider to make their decision (Table 13).

<b>Member and Provider Reconsiderations Upheld</b>		
	<b>Member Reconsiderations Upheld</b>	<b>Provider Reconsiderations Upheld</b>
<b>Clinical Denials Upheld</b>	85.53%	74.34%
<b>Administrative Denials Upheld</b>	94.37%	66.67%

Table 13 Reconsiderations Upheld

Providers may also request a peer-to-peer review with a DentaQuest Dental Director. Reversals of denied

decisions are not made at peer-to-peer reviews. If the peer reviewer feels it is appropriate, he or she will suggest the provider appeal the decision.

### Appeals (State Fair Hearings)

Members may request a state fair hearing after a denial of service. Within two business days of notification of a member appeal, a Complaints and Grievances Specialist will provide the Department with an appeals packet containing the initial submission documents, notice of action, provider determination notice, reconsideration or second review information, x-rays or narrative, and the clinical criteria utilized to make the decision. A DentaQuest Dental Director and the Complaints and Grievances Specialist attend the hearing to support the Department. There were 376 state fair hearings in SFY25.

Table 14 shows the numbers of Reconsiderations, Grievances, and Appeals-

Reconsiderations, Grievances and Appeals			
Type	Members	Providers	Totals
Reconsiderations	1,046	13,586	14,632
Grievances	469	88	557
State Fair Hearing	123	253	376
Total	1,638	13,927	15,565

Table 14 Reconsiderations, Grievances, and Appeals (State Fair Hearings)

### Utilization Review

*All providers were reviewed monthly for outlying practice patterns*

The DentaQuest Utilization Review system is set up to statistically evaluate treatment patterns of participating provider's use of codes compared to providers performing similar procedures. The system identifies those providers whose treatment patterns deviate significantly from the norms for both over-and under-utilization. Over-utilizers may be providing medically unnecessary care, while under-utilizers may not be providing necessary care to members.

The findings are shared monthly with the Department which decides what action, if any, to take with the provider. Options include provider training on billing or clinical issues performance monitoring, corrective action, and/or the recoupment of funds.

### Member Outreach and Education

***DentaQuest outreached to CHP and Medicaid members carrying out a combined 101 virtual presentations and provided direct advocacy to resolve 350 member issues.***

The Colorado Member Outreach Team's mission is to increase access to and utilization of high-quality dental benefits for all enrolled Health First Colorado and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) members. In support of this mission Member Outreach staff forges strong relationships with community partners across the state to promote Medicaid and CHP+ dental benefits and the importance of oral health. In support of this mission, Member Outreach staff forges strong relationships with community partners across the state to promote Medicaid and CHP+ dental benefits and the importance of oral health. In SFY 24-25 Member Outreach attended 41 in person and virtual events, provided 3,766 dental kits and/or oral health educational information and collaborated with more than 100 partner organizations including community-based organizations, advocacy groups and government departments to distribute program materials. This included sponsorship and participation in events such as the Colorado Mission of Mercy, where our team hosted an educational booth, gave out over 100 oral hygiene kits and provided educational information to the over 1,300 participants.

Colorado Outreach efforts include three of DentaQuest's Wellness Programs: Smiling Stork, Healthy Beginnings and the Broken Appointment program.

Smiling Stork was established to encourage women to receive dental care and educate them on the importance of managing their oral health care while pregnant. Pregnant members are contacted by calls with important information about their specific needs.

Topics and services include:

- Notification that dental care is safe and important during pregnancy
- The value of establishing good oral health habits for their babies
- How to access covered dental services during pregnancy
- Answers to questions about their dental benefit
- Dental appointment scheduling assistance

Healthy Beginnings provides age-specific oral health education at each birthday for DentaQuest's youngest members, from birth to age two. Healthy Beginnings materials outline education on topics such as the important role of baby teeth, how to prevent tooth decay, and tips on how to care for young children's teeth. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to schedule a dental appointment for their child by their first birthday and every six months after with their provided Dental Home contact information. DentaQuest Member Services contact information is also provided for further questions or assistance needed.

The Broken Appointment Program provides oral health education, encourages members to become proactive in their dental care, and helps improve dental appointment attendance rates. To achieve this, DentaQuest collaborates with dental providers to identify members who missed a dental visit without notice or cancelled a dental visit and did not reschedule. DentaQuest then contacts the identified members to encourage rescheduling and aid if needed to complete their dental appointment.

In SFY 24-25 Wellness Program outreach contacted a combined 16,508 members as part of the Smiling Stork program, 83,633 Healthy Beginnings member parents/guardians contacted, and 3,872 members contacted with the Broken Appointment program between CHP+ and Health First Colorado. The Member Outreach Team collaborated closely with staff from Colorado's Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) to resolve member issues and distribute oral health educational materials. Our team takes part in RAE Performance Improvement Advisory Committees (PIAC) for all RAE regions as attendees, voting members, and presenters. The Member Outreach staff presented to RAE Member Advisory Councils (MEAC) and provider resource groups about dental benefits and the oral systemic connection. Additionally, our team meets monthly with staff from each RAE region to collaborate on outreach efforts and member issue resolution.

## Definition of Terms

**ASO** – Administrative Services Organization is an organization that provides outsourced solutions to meet the administrative needs of an organization, with the organization retaining the financial risks and liabilities.

**Department** – The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, a department of the government of the State of Colorado.

**Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)** – These include all organizations receiving grants under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS). FQHCs qualify for enhanced reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid, as well as other benefits. FQHCs must serve an underserved area or population, offer a sliding fee scale, provide comprehensive services, have an ongoing quality assurance program, and have a governing board of directors.

**Medically Necessary/Medical Necessity** – A medical good or service that will, or is reasonably expected to prevent, diagnose, cure, correct, reduce, or ameliorate the pain and suffering, or the

physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental effects of an illness, injury, or disability. It must be clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration.

**Member** – A Health First Colorado member who is enrolled in the Health First Colorado Dental Program.

**Provider** -Any health care professional or entity that has been accepted as a provider in the Health First Colorado program as determined by the Department.

**State Fiscal Year (SFY)** – The twelve (12) month period beginning on July 1st of a year and ending on June 30th of the following year.



## Addendum

DentaQuest Colorado Team	
<b>Member Outreach &amp; Case Management</b>	
Heather Schenkel, Nancy Greene, Adriana Minscew	
<b>Provider Relations</b>	
Jennifer Labishak, Natalie Archuleta, Cristal Chavez, Abe Chavez, Davis Edge	
<b>Dental Director</b>	
Dr. James Grant	
<b>Client Engagement (local)</b>	
Sarah Cook, Lisa Reynolds, Logan Horn, Sarah Black	
<b>Client Engagement (national)</b>	
Michelle Blackwell, Riley Harper	

## DentaQuest Monthly Performance “Scorecard”

Medicaid Monthly Report											Colorado
Performance Scorecard											
MONTH	CLAIMS				TELEPHONE RESPONSE			INQUIRY RESPONSE		DATA	ELIGIBILITY FILE
	Claims Payment/Financial Accuracy	Claims Transaction / Processing Accuracy	Claims Turnaround Time	Claims Turnaround Time	Average Telephone Response/ Answer (member)	Contact Center Wait/Hold Time (member)	Average Call Abandonment after 60 seconds (member)	Written Inquiries Response (member)	Written Inquiries Resolution (members)	Eligibility Data Processing	Eligibility File Uploaded as expected?
	PERFORMANCE STANDARD										
	99%	96%	98% w/in 30 days	99% w/in 60days	Less than 60 seconds	Less than 5 Minutes	Less than 5%	2 business days	90% resolved w/in 15 days	Weekly files updated w/in 2 business days of receipt	N/A
SFY 24-25											
July	99.97%	99.86%	99.99%	100.00%	55	28	3.0%	63 out of 64	100%	yes	Yes
August	99.89%	99.90%	97.19%	100.00%	50	26	3.0%	69 out of 69	100%	yes	Yes
September	99.98%	99.90%	99.20%	100.00%	50	30	2.7%	43 out of 43	100%	yes	Yes
October	99.94%	99.89%	99.24%	100.00%	53	29	2.1%	32 out of 36	89%	yes	Yes
November	99.93%	99.92%	99.30%	100.00%	17	33	0.8%	26 out of 32	81%	yes	Yes
December	100.00%	99.99%	99.15%	99.64%	2	48	0.5%	33 out of 33	100%	yes	Yes
January	99.92%	99.93%	93.66%	99.83%	11	95	1.2%	66 out of 69	96%	yes	Yes
February	99.98%	99.93%	97.61%	99.18%	24	162	0.9%	44 out of 44	100%	yes	Yes
March	100.00%	99.95%	96.53%	99.58%	20	182	0.7%	61 out of 74	82%	yes	Yes
April	100.00%	99.93%	96.24%	97.54%	7	70	0.2%	41 out of 52	79%	yes	yes
May	99.99%	99.60%	99.60%	100.00%	0	10	0.3%	63 out of 67	94%	yes	yes
June	100.00%	99.98%	99.97%	100.00%	4	10	0.3%	48 out of 61	79%	yes	yes