



SALUD PARA LA GENTE PATIENT TESTIMONIAL



Ramona Hipolito de Garcia is 78 years old, and is a Medi-Cal beneficiary who has received various types of care at Salud Para La Gente in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County. She suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure, and vision problems. Ramona is a retired homemaker and mother of nine children and grandmother of many. She speaks only Spanish and cannot read or write. Slightly over a year ago she received vision care through Salud's optometric department, from Dr. Maricela Salgado. Dr. Salgado diagnosed Ramona with cataracts in one eye, and referred her to a specialist for surgery. As a result, she can now see much better, which is vital for her well-being. Ramona needs to return to the optometric department for ongoing care. If adult Medi-Cal optometric benefits are eliminated on July 1, Ramona will not be able to receive needed care because she has no insurance, no income and no resources.



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Gregorio Garcia is 52 years old, is married and is the father of six children. He is the pillar of his family, and is the example of responsibility and hard work which he wants his children to follow. Gregorio works in agriculture, picking strawberries in nearby fields, which is seasonal work. Gregorio is a Medi-Cal beneficiary who has received dental care at Salud Para La Gente in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, from Dr. Dennis Baluyut. He has received x-rays, examinations, cleanings, deep cleanings, fillings and crowns. Elimination of Medi-Cal dental benefits will be a great hardship for Gregorio, in that he does not have any other insurance and cannot afford uninsured dental care. If he had the funds to purchase private insurance he would, but he cannot afford private insurance.

Gregorio also receives Medi-Cal benefits for vision care, which he receives at a facility other than Salud Para La Gente. He wears glasses and has had eye surgery previously. Losing Medi-Cal vision benefits will mean that Gregorio cannot get the ongoing optometric services which he needs, including annual vision exams, and will not be able to obtain new glasses. He is very concerned about not having necessary vision services, since it is essential that he be able to see properly, in order to stay employed and provide for his family.



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Marta Lopez is 45 years old, is married and has a family of seven. She works in agriculture, picking berries and at a local farm. She has lived in Watsonville for 13 years. Marta is a Medi-Cal beneficiary who has received dental care at Salud Para La Gente in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, from Dr. Dennis Baluyut. She has received x-rays, examinations, cleanings, fillings and crowns. She will need ongoing treatment after July 1, 2009. Elimination of Medi-Cal dental benefits will be a great hardship for Marta, in that she does not have any other insurance and cannot afford uninsured dental care. She cannot afford the insurance offered through her work, since it costs over \$200.00 per month.

Marta also receives Medi-Cal benefits for vision care, which she receives at a facility other than Salud Para La Gente. Losing Medi-Cal vision benefits will mean that Marta cannot get annual vision exams, and will not be able to obtain glasses. She does not earn enough money to pay for these services and products out-of-pocket.



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Anastasio Garcia Rincon is 81 years old, and is a Medi-Cal dental and vision care patient at Salud Para La Gente in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County. Anastasio is a retired and disabled agricultural worker. He speaks only Spanish and cannot read or write. Approximately two years ago he sought treatment at Salud's dental clinic with Dr. Dennis Baluyut. Salud provided Anastasio with dental cleanings, fillings, extractions and partial dentures. Because of the treatment he received at Salud, Anastasio can now speak and chew properly. Anastasio also received vision care through Salud's optometric department, from Dr. Maricela Salgado. She diagnosed him with pterygium in one eye, and cataracts in both eyes, and referred him to a specialist for surgery. As a result, he can now see much better, which is vital for his well-being. Anastasio needs to return to both the dental department and the optometric department for ongoing care. If adult Medi-Cal dental benefits and vision care benefits are eliminated on July 1, Anastasio will not be able to receive needed care because he has no insurance, no income and no resources.



Redwoods Rural Health Center

COMPLETE FAMILY HEALTH CARE

P.O. Box 769 Redway, CA 95560

(707) 923-2783 FAX (707) 923-2543

1. Name and Age: *Jaden Lee*
5 yrs.
2. How long have you been a patient at RRHC?
6 months - 1 year?
3. How often have you used dental services at RRHC?
2x
4. What kinds of dental treatments have you received at RRHC?
Check ups - look at teeth
1st visit
5. Do you have any other health conditions that have become worse or better because of your dental health? *NO*
6. Where would you go for dental problems if you could not go to RRHC?
Long Valley Dental
7. Why do you enjoy getting dental services at RRHC?
Close to home



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1. Name and Age: **SETH STEVENS 37**
2. How long have you been a patient at RRHC? **3 YEARS**
3. How often have you used dental services at RRHC? **10-12 TIMES**
4. What kinds of dental treatments have you received at RRHC? **CAVITIES, CLEANING, NIGHT GUARD (FOR TMJ)**
5. Do you have any other health conditions that have become worse or better because of your dental health? **NO**
6. Where would you go for dental problems if you could not go to RRHC?
NOWHERE, THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE TAKING MEDICAL CLIENTS ANYWHERE AROUND HERE
7. Why do you enjoy getting dental services at RRHC?
YES!



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(707) 923-2783 FAX (707) 923-2543

1. Name and Age:

Shone 32

2. How long have you been a patient at RRHC?

3. How often have you used dental services at RRHC?

Every couple of months

4. What kinds of dental treatments have you received at RRHC?

Have had teeth pulled
and dentures

5. Do you have any other health conditions that have become worse or better because of your dental health?

6. Where would you go for dental problems if you could not go to RRHC?

Havent had to work

7. Why do you enjoy getting dental services at RRHC?

Really nice people
excellent work



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1. Name and Age: *Eliza Barrett 42*
2. How long have you been a patient at RRHC? *8 years*
3. How often have you used dental services at RRHC?
twice a year cleaning / once a year exam
4. What kinds of dental treatments have you received at RRHC?
Cleaning, filling replacement, annual check up
5. Do you have any other health conditions that have become worse or better because of your dental health? *Better - gums healthier from regular cleaning*
6. Where would you go for dental problems if you could not go to RRHC?
can't afford non-sliding scale
7. Why do you enjoy getting dental services at RRHC?
*Friendly people who know my history
Sliding scale affordability*



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1. Name and Age: *SUSAN BUNDLE, 57*
2. How long have you been a patient at RRHC? *6 months*
3. How often have you used dental services at RRHC? *5*
4. What kinds of dental treatments have you received at RRHC? *CLEANING, EXTRactions*
5. Do you have any other health conditions that have become worse or better because of your dental health? *?*
6. Where would you go for dental problems if you could not go to RRHC?
DON'T KNOW
7. Why do you enjoy getting dental services at RRHC?
GOOD DRS & STAFF



Redwoods Rural Health Center

COMPLETE FAMILY HEALTH CARE

P.O. Box 769 Redway, CA 95560

(707) 923-2783 FAX (707) 923-2543

1. Name and Age: Paula Stevens ; 49
2. How long have you been a patient at RRHC? Since 2005 - consistently
3. How often have you used dental services at RRHC? Approximately every six months. More if ~~needed~~ necessary
4. What kinds of dental treatments have you received at RRHC? Cleanings, Exams, Extractions, fillings etc.
5. Do you have any other health conditions that have become worse or better because of your dental health? When I get good dental care, I know I'm preventing gum disease and possibly heart problems
6. Where would you go for dental problems if you could not go to RRHC? Another Clinic
Probably in Eureka
7. Why do you enjoy getting dental services at RRHC? The dental care is good and the people are friendly.

Testimonials In Support of Adult Denti-Cal

June, 2009

Donna DiRosa

**Patient, La Clínica de La Raza
Concord, CA**

I just found out that dental services are going to be cut. Denti-Cal in Sacramento gave me a list of [private] dentists to call, but they weren't taking anyone. Some said that they're not on the list anymore, and some said that they can't start the care because treatment would take too long. Denti-Cal strongly recommended La Clinica.

I have liver cancer. A tumor in my liver. The Denti-Cal people told me to put my cancer treatments on hold so I could get my teeth fixed before the program ends. The state didn't give me any sort of warning that these services were going to be cut. I can't go to the county. The county just does extractions.

I expect to go back to work, but I can't go back to work without teeth. Dentures – lower dentures; I have limited income - I can't afford what they cost.

My cancer doctor told me that my teeth need to be taken care of before starting treatment. Said that infection is a major risk.

I'm a grandmother of 6. Mother of 2. I'm self-employed, off work now due to medical issues. When I was working I paid for my top denture myself with private insurance.

Right now, dentists are afraid to even start the process for me. You just don't show up in places without teeth.

Dr. Barokzoy

**Dental Director, Brookside Community Health Center
San Pablo, CA**

Our clinic is right across from a hospital. It has no dental services. We get the referrals. If they have tooth pain, they just give painkillers and send them away. On a regular basis, we see people who have infections so bad they can't eat or sleep.

Tell me if that is optional to a human being. I know state resources are limited. They may not be able to give everything. But there should be some other option for these patients. Maybe have patients pay every month into an insurance pool. We can't just cut these people off and tell them it's not our problem – just leave. This is our society we're talking about.