

INTEGRATING ORAL HEALTH CARE



IN THE MEDICAL OFFICE

GENERAL

Opportunities

- Incorporate oral health into well child visits:
 - Don't forget to lift the lip - you may see other pathology, too!
- Patient/Caregiver Education
 - Brush twice daily
 - Floss if teeth are touching
 - Use fluoridated toothpaste for children and adults
 - Spit and swallow remainder (no need to rinse)
 - Tip: Don't worry about discussing everything in one visit-tailor to what will be most useful and least overwhelming to the patient!
 - Consider motivational interviewing strategies to help patients set their own goals for oral health
- Fluoride varnish application
- Refer to dentist

Telemedicine

- Coding
 - See AAP Oral Health Coding Fact Sheet for Primary Care Physicians for oral health ICD-10 codes
- Consider using counseling codes for preventative services during acute and follow-up visits
- More codes to come - use coding references

Important

- Oral Health Risk Assessment and Fluoride Varnish application are in **Bright Futures recommendations** for checkups from 1-5 years old
- Determine your **office policy** (sample is on HTHC website)

- Utilize EHR software for **reminder "pop ups"** for regular oral health assessments and fluoride application
- **Separate consent is not necessary**, covered under blanket agreement for care

Preparation

- Determine staff roles:
 - Who will be staff champion?
 - Who will order supplies?
 - Who will gather supplies/assemble bags?
 - Who will equip rooms with supplies and educational materials?
 - Who will maintain a dental referral list?
 - Who will provide patient education?
 - Who will follow up?
- Policies/Procedures/Workflow
 - Use an EHR template or paper checklist
 - Establish office policy and billing
 - **Start slow and refine your flow**

Facilitating Application

- Assemble supplies in small individual bags
 - Gloves
 - Gauze (2x2)
 - Fluoride varnish & brush
 - Directions for care after treatment
 - Paper towel or bib (optional)
 - Disposable mouth mirror (optional)
 - Tongue blade (optional)



CLINICAL PEARLS

Light Source

- Otoscope
- Penlight
- Head lamp

Prep before starting

- Gather your kit
- Toothbrush is useful - demonstrate and use it to clean teeth before applying varnish!

Comments:

- Caution with Ulcerative gingivitis/stomatitis, aphthous ulcers, open oral lesions
- Pine nut allergy is NOT a problem
- Varnish can be irritating if too much is applied - use only what is necessary to cover teeth with a thin layer!

Positions

- Knee to knee
- Held in parent lap
- Supine on exam table
- Sitting on exam table

Lift the lip and be systematic

- Mouth will open automatically!
- Focus on upper jaw, then lower jaw
- Do the mouth in quadrants (Right Upper Quadrant, Left Upper Quadrant, Right Lower Quadrant, Left Lower Quadrant)
- Upper Arch
- Lower Arch
- Tongue
- Find a sequence that works and be consistent

TOPICAL FLUORIDE VARNISH IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

Provider Credentialing

- Take the HTHC course* or Smiles for Life Module 6 and obtain CME certificate.
- Transmit certificate to PA Medicaid per the bulletin and also to all of the MCOs with whom you participate. Lobby with private insurances to pay.

Flow Questions

- Who does the risk assessment?
- Who does the family education?
- Who orders supplies? Who orders the varnish (must have DEA number to order)?
- Who gathers the supplies for point of service? In sandwich bags? In baskets? Another way?

Supplies

- Who orders the varnish (needs DEA #)?
- Who orders gloves, gauze, toothbrushes to give away? Plastic sandwich bags?
- Who fills the bags and puts them in the basket or rooms?
- Parent handouts - which ones? How to distribute.

Policies

- Who will write it (sample provided) and where must it go?

Procedure

- Where will risk assessment, education, record of procedure, and record of referral be recorded?

*Oral Health in Your Office

Sample script for calls to create your referral list

Record name, address, phone, fax, secure email

- "I'm calling about referring our patients to you appropriately. I'll be brief..."
- What number should we call to reach you if we have an emergency referral? To whom should we speak?
- What address should we give the patient for your office?
- At what age should we refer patients to you for their first visit?
- Are there any special documents or messages that you would like us to share with the patient?
- Do you accept Medicaid Managed Care Organization insurance plans?
- Do you accept CHIP insurance?
- Which private insurances do you accept?
- If you see children under 3 years old are you able to provide restorative dental treatment?
- Do you send them elsewhere?
- To whom do you prefer to refer them?
- Do you use general anesthesia?
- Do you do subgingival scaling without anesthesia?"

Thanks to Sean Boynes, DMD and the MORE Care Project for assisting us with the vetting of these questions.

Example of a Dentist List Spreadsheet

Name	Telephone	Fax	Commercial Insurances Accepted	Medicaid Insurances Accepted	CHIP Insurances Accepted	Accepts Children Age	Ages on Which They Perform Restorative Services	Other Information
PEDIATRIC DENTISTS								
Jane Child, DDS								
FAMILY DENTISTS								
Frank Family, DDS								
FQHCs, FREE CLINICS, PUBLIC HEALTH, OTHER								
Community Clinic								
Free Clinic								
Health Department								