Dental Home Initiative

Making a Difference for Oral Health of Children in New York State by extending the services of private dental practices to underserved populations.
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Corning, NY

- Trustee, New York State Dental Foundation
- NYSDA Council on Governmental Affairs
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- ADA Council on Access, Prevention, and Interprofessional Relations
- The Dental Quality Alliance, Executive Board
Public Health Approach

Problem Response

Diagnosis

Assessment

Treatment Plan

Program Plan

Treatment Program

Policy Development Assurance

Evaluation

Problem Response
Can we make a difference?

Doesn’t she deserve your help?
How to influence health outcomes?

- Biological factors
- Individual & Family
- Health System
- Community & Environment
Medicaid

- New York spends $2,283 per capita. National average is $1,026.
- Additionally, projected 2009-10 All Funds Medicaid spending ($45.4 billion) would still represent an increase of $15.3 billion or 51 percent compared to 1999-00.
Essential elements of an oral disease prevention program

- Leadership
- State surveillance system
- Oral disease burden document
- State Oral Health Plan
- Statewide oral health coalition
- Interventions
- Partnerships
- Evaluation capacity
What can we do.....
as in \textit{NOW}?
Is there room in your practice for a few children?

97% of members of the Seventh District Dental Society, headquartered in Rochester, NY, said in a recent poll that they could accept new patients.*

*by personal communication with all dentists in non-Monroe counties and 10% random selection in Monroe County. Unpublished, Schirmer, D., 2009
Add a few children to your practice who might not necessarily have access to your services.
They may not be used to a caring and capable provider and might be a bit shy.
But not for long
It can be fun!!
Topical Fluoride Varnish at all recall appointments
They love to tell you something about themselves
Every child gets a prize, but you get to know you made a difference in that child’s life.
Sustainability

- This is not charity.
- You do not have to be all things to all patients.
- You decide what you can do and how much.
- Taking care of some children does not mean it has to become your whole practice.
Reimbursement

Example One -- Three occlusal restorations on posterior teeth plus nitrous analgesia:

MMC, CHP, FHP: $325 (one half hour)

Private fee for service: $525 (one half hour)
Reimbursement

- Example Two – Periodic exam, bite wing radiographs, prophylaxis, topical fluoride varnish (one half hour)
- MMC, CHP, FHP: $141
- Private fee for service: $185
Make sure everyone knows the rules for office decorum
Policies to enhance outcome

- One escort, parent or guardian, only
- Escort may not be ill
- Tobacco: no smoking on day of appointment. Clothes must be free of odor of smoking.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- No T shirts or caps allowed.
- Men must wear collared shirts
- Men must wear pants
- Attire must be clean and not soiled or stained.
Policies

- No facial or oral piercings can be worn
- No visible tattoos
- No food or beverages are allowed in office
- Missed appointments, or appointments cancelled less than 24 hours in advance are not allowed
- No cell phone use
Policies

- Escorts and patients must be respectful of other patients at all times.
- Children are allowed to play quietly or read while in reception room.
- Siblings or friends who do not have an appointment are not allowed in the office.
Prevention is the key
Have some fun and help society, too
Everyone wins !!!
For more information on how we incorporate children into our practice you can write to me at

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