

Integrating Oral Health and Medical Care – Resources

1. **Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2000;** US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Executive Summary.

Change health providers' perceptions. Too little time is devoted to oral health and disease topics in the education of non-dental health professionals. Yet all care providers can and should contribute to enhancing oral health. This can be accomplished in several ways, such as including an oral examination as part of a general medical examination, advising patients in matters of diet and tobacco cessation, and referring patients to oral health practitioners for care prior to medical or surgical treatments that can damage oral tissues, such as cancer chemotherapy or radiation to the head and neck. Health care providers should be ready, willing, and able to work in collaboration to provide optimal health care for their patients. Having informed health care professionals will ensure that the public using the health care system will benefit from interdisciplinary services and comprehensive care. To prepare providers for such a role will involve, among other factors, curriculum changes and multidisciplinary training.

2. **Enhanced Care Through Appropriate Medical Referrals (ECTAMR)** (American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry) ECTAMR is a grass-roots initiative between Dentists and Medical Care Providers to improve access and quality of pediatric oral health care by enhancing appropriate referral timing.

<http://www.vhcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/ECTAMR.pdf>

3. **“Engaging Primary Care Medical Providers in Children’s Oral Health”** 2009.

<http://nashp.org/sites/default/files/EngagingPrimaryCareMedicalProvidersCOH.pdf> This report overviews dental care programs across states, focusing on initiatives utilizing primary care providers.

4. **“Moving on the Oral Health Provisions in Health Reform: A Roadmap for Implementation”**

http://www.cdhp.org/system/files/ACA%20Oral%20Health%20Whitepaper_0.pdf

5. **What Works for the patient:**

[From a power point by Jacqueline A. Tallman, RDH, MPA Dental Director, Health Disparities Collaborative -National Network for Oral Health Access -Michigan Primary Care Association]

- Hearing from their medical provider that they need to see the dentist!
- Hearing from their medical provider that their oral health affects their diabetes and their general health!
- Repeated messages if necessary
- Same day quick initial visit to dental – easier to come back if they have had that initial meeting!
- Escorted by medical staff to dental to make appointment
- Established referral system that all staff know and use
- Tracking referrals