

Provider Update

Oral health training for primary care providers

Summary of change: Amerigroup Community Care recognizes that adequate oral health is important to the overall health and well-being of all members, especially young children. Poor oral health can significantly affect a child's health status, growth and development and learning capabilities.

We encourage pediatric primary care providers to discuss the importance of oral health with families and give age appropriate guidance on oral habits and safety.

Preventive oral health training is available to PCPs through the NJ chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (NJAAP).

You and your team can learn how to integrate oral health into routine well care with convenient office-based training.

Benefits to your practice:

- Two continuing medical education (CME) credits approved
- Increased knowledge on the important role of the pediatric provider in preventing early childhood caries (ECC)
- Reimbursement fee on fluoride varnish application
- Hands on training on performing an oral health risk assessment and fluoride varnish application
- Access to a list of participating dental home providers in your county

Why is this change necessary?

NJAAP is collaborating with NJ Dental Association, NJ Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and others to increase access to preventive oral health services for children birth to three years of age through collaborative impact of medical and dental partnerships and improve utilization of payers and community resources.

To schedule your training or obtain oral health resources, contact the New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics by calling 609-842-0014 or visit their website aapnj.org and look for programs.

A dental emergency can occur at any time and members can be prepared.

Inform your patients that their primary care dentist, available through Healthplex Inc., can care for all your dental needs including emergencies. Examples of emergency/urgent services that are best treated at a dentist's office include:

- Bleeding/sore gums
- Toothache/pain
- Lost filling/crown
- Broken tooth
- Abscess/infection
- Swelling

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You or your patient can learn more about their dental needs by contacting Healthplex Member Services at 1-800-720-5352, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Eastern time or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.

Access the provider website at providers.amerigroup.com/NJ under Provider Resources & Documents to find additional oral health information.