

Brightening Oral Health

The general health care practitioner is in a prime position to play a role in the prevention of dental caries and appropriate follow-up where disease is detected. Clinical examination and anticipatory guidance is a regular part of pediatric care providing the context for teaching oral hygiene and discussing good oral health habits. There has been great progress toward the inclusion of explicit oral health assessment within health supervision care. These facts combined with the possibility that a health care practitioner can see a child a total of 6 times for well child visits between ages 6 months and 2 puts pediatricians in a prime position to play a significant role in children's dental caries prevention and oral health promotion.

To address this, and improve care for infants and families, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has begun planning an oral health promotion program in the context of health supervision care. Drawing on previously pediatrician tested oral health risk assessment tool, the Brightening Oral Health program will focus on the implementation of oral health risk assessment tool during health supervision care. This project is supported by Procter and Gamble: Live Learn Thrive and managed by the Bright Futures Initiative at the American Academy of Pediatrics. Selected projects will be remunerated with a \$500 stipend.

Project Aims

The overall goal of this project is to implement the oral health risk assessment tool over a 6 month period and look at improvement in oral health care and practice office systems with 5-10 practices. In addition, this project will also test feasibility and make improvements to the existing oral health tool and implement and evaluate a community meeting for developing an oral health referral network. The overarching principle of this project is to increase oral health risk assessment and appropriate anticipatory guidance, intervention, and referral when indicated. Guided by the AAP's Brightening Oral Health Team, the practice teams will:

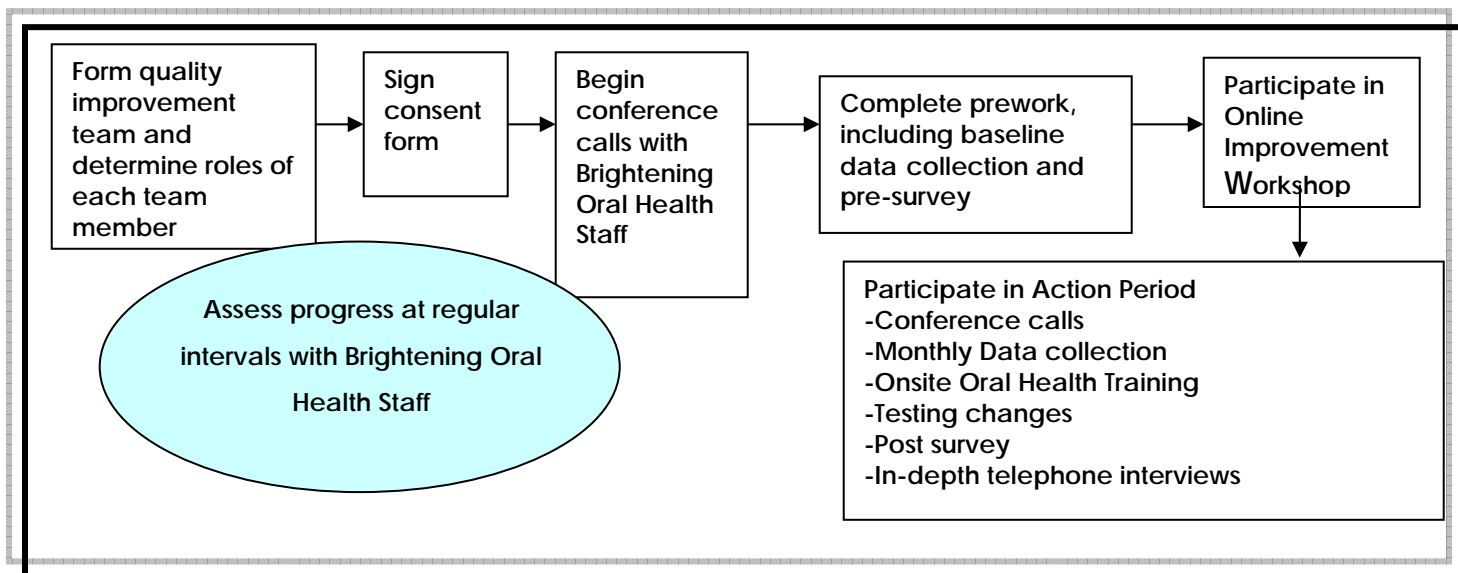
- Use the oral health risk assessment tool to test for:
 - Improvement in caries risk assessment/screening and documentation
 - Referral to a dental home at 12 months
 - Identification of infants who need oral fluoride supplementation
 - Delivery of appropriate anticipatory guidance to parents/caregivers on oral health
 - The usefulness of the oral health risk assessment tool to help practices determine which *patients are high risk and need prioritized dental home referrals and/or fluoride varnish.*
- Implementation of office systems changes to improve oral health care during health supervision visits
 - Including development of an oral health referral network via a practice based community meeting
 - Identification of children with special health care needs

Participating Practices

Participating teams will work over the course of 7 months to implement and test the Oral Health Risk Assessment Tool. To participate in this project, teams will need to attend one 2 hour web-based improvement workshop and participate in monthly conference calls with other project teams. Teams will need to complete a pre- and post-survey Inventory and monthly fill out and fax in ten de-identified Oral Health Risk Assessment Tools, and a six-item progress report.

The one time 2 hour web-based improvement workshop will orient clinical teams to the oral health risk assessment tool and current information on oral health promotion and caries treatment, train them on data collection methods and project protocol for the next 6 months, and explain use of the Model for Improvement for implementing process changes. During the project, measurement of progress and small tests of change with the Oral Health Risk Assessment Tool will be required. The sequence of project events for involvement is in the chart below as well as expectations of participants.

Timeline for Participating Practices



Practice Selection

All applications received will be reviewed by the Brightening Oral Health team. A broad range of criteria will be considered. Applicants are expected to have identified a team and documented in the application the commitment of the lead physician to support this project.

Benefits of Participation

Participation in this nationally recognized project would provide many benefits to involved teams:

- Learn proven ways to improve oral health care
- Access practical tools for how to deliver better oral health preventive care
- Implement tested innovations in care delivery
- Receive ongoing support for improvement, as well as feedback about progress
- Participate with national experts and colleagues from participating practices

Specific Expectations

- *Commitment* to participate and make improvements in the delivery of oral health preventive care
- *Identification and participation of a 2 to 3 person multidisciplinary team* (we suggest primary care practitioner, nurse, and administrative or office staff person) for approximately 7 months. This team will:
 - Complete pre-work activities prior to the Improvement Workshop, including review of the oral health risk assessment tool, completion of a pre-survey (Inventory) and collection of baseline data
 - Participate in an Improvement Workshop, a one time two hour kick-off web based workshop
 - Collect and submit baseline data (completing 20 oral health risk assessment tools) and complete monthly data by completing 10 Oral Health Risk Assessment Tools
 - Help plan and participate in a community meeting designed to improve oral health referrals
 - Share lessons learned and problem-solve with other participating practices through monthly conference calls and e-mail
 - Have regular access to e-mail and the Internet for communication with the project team for ongoing support, information, and communication
 - Complete a brief post-survey (Inventory) and Tool Evaluation
 - Participate in a brief audio recorded telephone exit interview at the conclusion of the project
 - If necessary, seek local Institutional Review Board approval for project participation

Institutional Review Board (IRB)

The Brightening Oral Health project has received approval from the AAP Institutional Review Board. No identifiable protected health information is being collected for this project; therefore, HIPAA authorization will not be needed from patients in order for your practice to participate. Note: your hospital or healthcare system may also require IRB approval. Many times the information supplied in the AAP IRB Application will be applicable to your own local or hospital IRB application as well and may be sufficient. If not, the AAP IRB application will be provided so that it can be adapted to meet your needs; a copy of the AAP IRB will be made available upon your request.