

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm that the WV CHIP and WVU School of Dentistry announce the launch of the WV Medical Infant and Child Oral Health Training Program! In order for the program to be successful, we need your help. Please distribute the following information to your membership in order that we may all do our part in reducing the deleterious outcomes of childhood caries. In addition, special thanks go to Sharon Carte and Dr. Fernando Indacochea for their commitment to see this initiative to fruition and to the WV American Academy of Family Physicians for providing the continuing education credit for the training.

The West Virginia Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) initiated the West Virginia Medical Infant & Child Oral Health Training Program for the express purpose of reducing the rates of early childhood caries in at risk children throughout West Virginia. Because primary care providers encounter new mothers and infants during their well-child care visits, **you** are uniquely positioned to play a significant role in the prevention of dental caries. It is essential as primary care providers that you are aware of the infectious pathophysiology and associated risk factors of dental caries in very young patients so that you can make appropriate decisions regarding timely and effective intervention. The West Virginia Medical Infant & Child Oral Health Training Program has been specifically designed to fulfill this need. All primary care providers that treat children are encouraged to complete this training course in caries risk assessment, intervention (including the application of fluoride varnish), anticipatory guidance and referral. **The training course will allow the primary care provider to become certified with the WV CHIP program and be eligible for reimbursement of this new service. WV Medicaid is expected to add this service to their menu of billable services in the very near future.**

The medical professional must complete the program in two sequential phases. Phase 1 consists of an on-line training and Phase 2 consists of a live, face-to-face training led by an Oral Health Champion (dentist and/or dental hygienist). The cost of Phase 1 is \$40 and can be accessed by going to <http://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/Oral-Health/WVInfantOH> Once Phase 1 is successfully completed, WVU School of Dentistry will facilitate scheduling of Phase 2. Phase 2 will be conducted in the local area where the primary care provider practices, preferably in their office or possibly at another local venue.

If you have any questions about implementation or other aspects of the program, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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