

**MSDA**  
MEDICAID-CHIP  
STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION



***2015 National Medicaid and CHIP Oral  
Health Symposium***

***Session 7***

***Health Professions Education as a  
Driver for Change***

**Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., M.P.H.**

**Washington Marriott Wardman Park**

**Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

# Learning Objectives

Participants will gain knowledge in:

- New concepts in interprofessional education and collaborative health care
- Forces driving change in health professions education and practice
- Ways in which dentistry is participating
- Impact on the Medicaid and CHIP dental programs

# Disclosure and Conflict of Interest Declaration

- ☐ I declare that neither I nor any member of my family have a financial arrangement or affiliation with any corporate organization offering financial support or grant monies for this continuing dental education program, nor do I have a financial interest in any commercial product or service I will discuss in the presentation.

# What is IPE?

Interprofessional education occurs when:

- students from two or more professions
- learn about each other
- from and with each other
- to enable effective collaboration



# What is IPE not meant to be?

- Students simply in the same classroom
- Episodic
- Teaching other health professionals to perform dental procedures

# IPE and Collaborative Practice are Game Changers

- Happening quickly
- Impacting all of healthcare including dentistry
- Influenced strongly by market forces, including the ACA, managed care, and Medicaid

# Some Historical Perspectives

- Concepts have been promoted for more than 40 years
- Silo'ed approaches reinforced by education and reimbursement
- Majority of physicians and many pharmacists were self-employed

# What is different now?

- Market forces
- Impact of Medicaid, managed care, large healthcare systems
- Majority of physicians and nearly all pharmacists and nurses are now employed
- Focus on “Triple Aim”:
  - Improving the patient experience of care
  - Improving the health of populations
  - Reducing the per capita cost of health care

# Foundations of IPE and Collaborative Practice

- FASHP: The Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions
- VA Health Administration PACTs: Patient Aligned Care Teams
- ACOs: Accountable Care Organizations
- “Volume to Value”

# The IPE Collaborative (IPEC)

## Agreement in January 2009 to work together to:

- Foster a common vision for team-based care
- Promote efforts to reform health care delivery and financing consonant with that vision
- Contribute to development of leaders and resources for substantive interprofessional learning





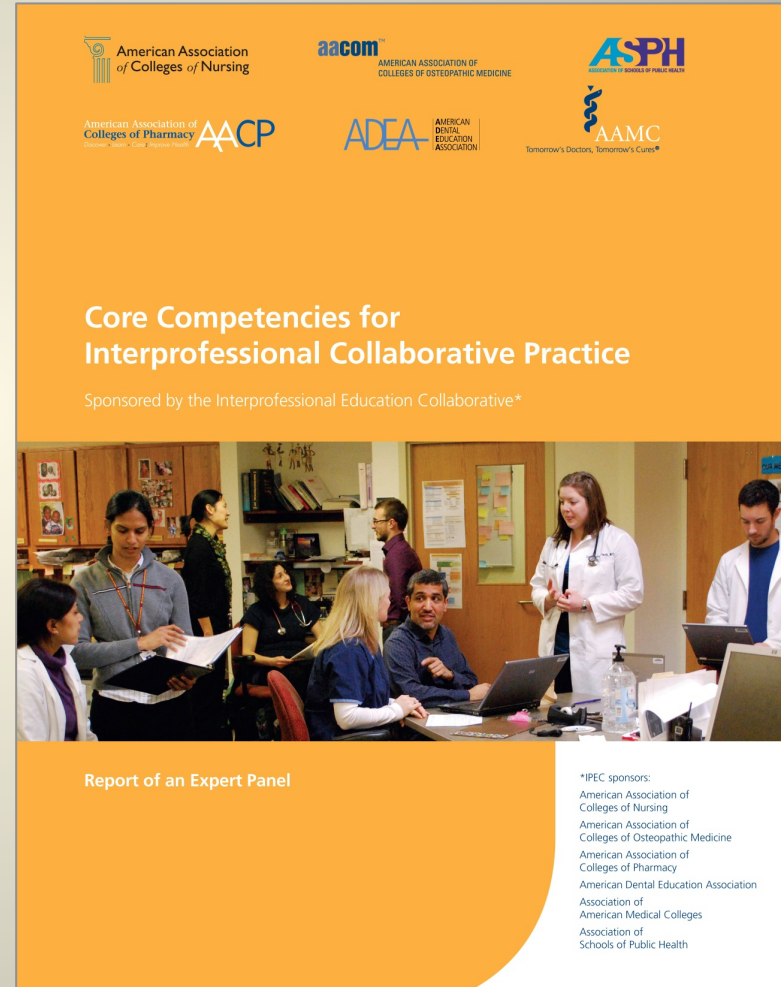
# Four Competency Domains with 38 Sub-Competencies:

Values and ethics

Roles and  
responsibilities

Interprofessional  
communications

Teams and teamwork



# The Future of Dental Education in an Interprofessional Context

- Transformations in health professions education in academic health centers
- Transformations in opportunities for collaborative care
- Introduction of DSOs
- Market differentiation through integration of dental care in health systems

# What Will Be the Impact on Medicaid and CHIP Dental Programs?

# References

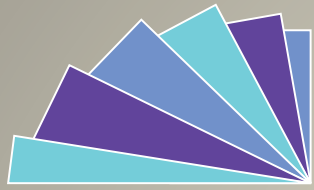
- IPEC Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. 2009.  
<https://ipeccollaborative.org/uploads/IPEC-Core-Competencies.pdf>
- Team-Based Competencies: Building a Shared Foundation For Education and Clinical Practice. 2011.
- <https://ipeccollaborative.org/uploads/IPEC-Team-Based-Competencies.pdf>

# Contact Information

- Dr. Valachovic is President and CEO of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and President of the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC)
- [ValachovicR@adea.org](mailto:ValachovicR@adea.org)







**MSDA**  
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***2015 National Medicaid and CHIP Oral  
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***Session 7***

***Preparing an Interprofessional  
Oral Health Primary Care Workforce***

**Judith Haber, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN**

**Washington Marriott Wardman Park**

**Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**



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# Learning Objective(s)

Participants will gain knowledge in:

- Interprofessional education as a driver of change
- Potential contributions of the primary care workforce to improving oral health access, disparities, and outcomes
- Interprofessional clinical education models that prepare a collaborative practice ready workforce
- Actions to advance integration of oral health in primary care

# National Documents Influencing Oral Health Policy

Oral Health in America:  
A Report of the  
Surgeon General

Oral Health Care During Pregnancy:  
A National Consensus Statement

Healthy People  
2020

Advancing  
Oral Health  
in America

Improving Access to  
Oral Health Care for  
Vulnerable and  
Underserved Populations

ORAL HEALTH  
LITERACY



WORKSHOP SUMMARY

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE AND  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

# Oral Health Facts

- 130 million US adults and children lack dental coverage
- 70% of adults aged > 65 lack dental coverage
- Up to 75% of pregnant women are declined dental services because of pregnancy
- ECC is the most common chronic disease of childhood in 5-to-17 year olds
- ECC is 5x more common than asthma
- 50 million school hours per year lost b/c of oral health related illness (pain, infection)

# Preventative Oral Health Care

## Cost Savings

- In 2010 alone, treating oral health conditions in hospital emergency departments cost the healthcare system between **\$867 million and \$2.1 billion**
- The average cost to treat a child with tooth severe decay under general anesthesia is **\$7,200 per case**
- Annual medical cost savings of **\$2,483 per person** for individuals with diabetes who completed periodontal therapy



# HRSA Report (2014)

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## Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
February 2014

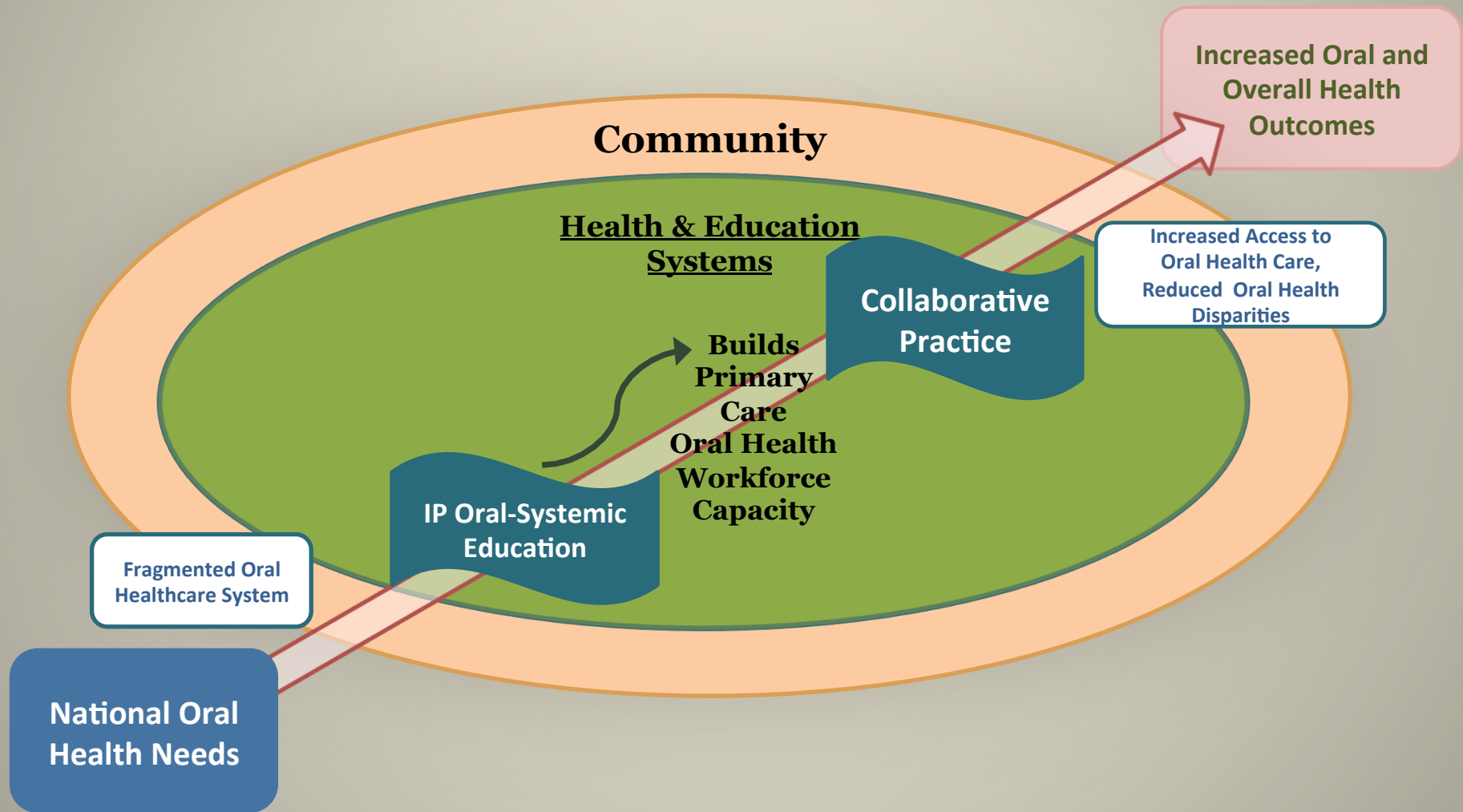


## A User's Guide for Implementation of Interprofessional Oral Health Core Clinical Competencies: Results of a Pilot Project





# Interprofessional Oral Health Workforce Capacity Models



# Interprofessional Oral Health Core Clinical Competencies

## Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
February 2014



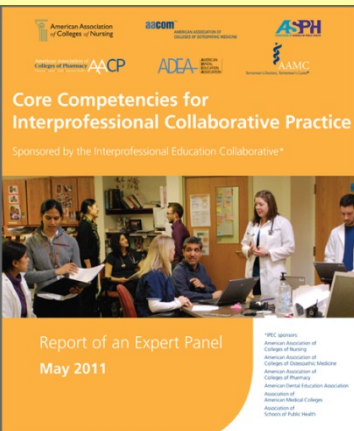
## Oral Health Core Clinical

- Health history
- Oral exam
- Risk assessment
- Self management Counseling
- Management Plan
  - Oral health preventive intervention
  - Collaboration and or Referral

Graduates competent to address IP OH needs of their patients

## Interprofessional

- Listen actively
- Understand ability of each team member
- Recognize how skills complement and overlap
- Address Concerns
- IP approach to address health situation



# Smiles for Life

## 2014 CE Registered Users by Profession (n=10,854)



**Smiles for Life**  
A national oral health curriculum

Home | Online Courses | Downloadable Modules | State Prevention Programs | Resources | Links | Contact Us

Welcome | Steering Committee | Endorsers | Funders | History | Citation | Sharing Our Website | FAQs | Video | Utilization

**Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum** 3rd edition

Smiles for Life produces educational resources to ensure the integration of oral health and primary care.

**For Individual Clinicians**

We've made it easy for individual physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, students, and other clinicians to access the curriculum and learn on their own time and at their own pace. Each of the courses is available online. Free Continuing Education credit is available.

**For Educators**

This curriculum format can be easily implemented in an academic setting. Included is a comprehensive set of educational objectives based on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) competencies, test questions, resources for further learning, oral health web links, an implementation guide, and detailed module outlines.

**Course Quick Links**

- Course 1: The Relationship of Oral to Systemic Health
- Course 2: Child Oral Health
- Course 3: Adult Oral Health
- Course 4: Acute Dental Problems
- Course 5: Oral Health & the Pregnant Patient
- Course 6: Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish & Counseling
- Course 7: The Oral Examination
- Course 8: Geriatric Oral Health

**Answering the Call: Joining the Fight for Oral Health**

Watch this informative and inspiring video which outlines both the challenge and progress in improving oral health as a vital component of effective primary care. Click the full screen icon in the bottom right hand corner of the video thumbnail to view it full-sized. This video is approximately seven minutes in length.

An extended version (21 minutes) of this documentary is also available.

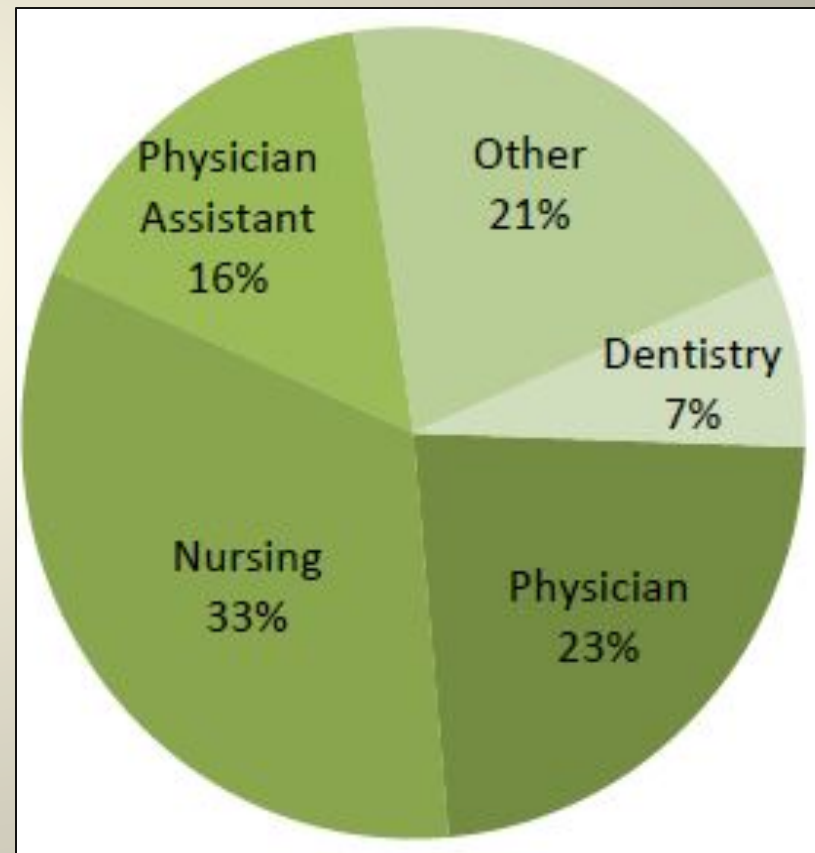
A Product of: **STFM** SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF FAMILY MEDICINE

Endorsed by: **NASN** National Association of School Nurses

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™


**STFM** SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF FAMILY MEDICINE

COURSES COMPLETED FOR CE CREDIT: 84168






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### News

- [New Blog Post: HPV's Impact on the Mouth](#)
- [Interview with Dr. Judi Haber](#)
- [Presentation at the InterProfessional Health Care Summit](#)

[more](#)

### Smiles for Life

A national oral health curriculum



### Interprofessional Oral Health Faculty Toolkit

### OHNEP LEADS THE WAY


[View](#) [Edit](#)

**OHNEP is at the vanguard** of helping nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, nurses, and other health professionals incorporate oral health into patient care.


Why? **Oral health and general health** are interconnected. Research is finding that poor oral health like periodontal disease is associated with diabetes, cancer, heart and lung diseases, and progression of dementia and Alzheimer's, among others. Yet few health professionals are prepared to do routine oral health assessments.

[OHNEP is changing that.](#)


**As a national voice promoting** interprofessional oral health, OHNEP advocates, educates, creates and promotes resources that primary care clinicians can use to improve the quality of oral health care in their patients. The OHNEP website serves as a knowledge center and portal for best practices.



**Education**  
Teaching Smiles for Life and Health



**Resources**  
Great OHNEP Resources




**Practice**  
Step-By-Step Guide for Success+Stories

### Stay Connected

Join our e-mail newsletter, Oral Health Matters!, for the latest OHNEP information

### Expanding Access to Oral Health Care: Nurses Make a Difference

#### Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice (OHNEP)



# HEENT to HEENOT



<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2014.302495>



# Public Health Learning Modules

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Using **Healthy People 2020** to  
Improve the Oral Health of  
Populations Across the Lifespan

[http://www.aptrweb.org/?PHLM\\_I5](http://www.aptrweb.org/?PHLM_I5)



**Public Health**  
Learning Modules

Using **Healthy People 2020**  
to Improve Population Health



ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION TEACHING AND RESEARCH



College of Health Professions  
and Social Work  
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY\*



# A-GNP Curriculum Integration of Interprofessional Oral Health Competencies in Health Assessment

ADULT - GERONTOLOGY HEALTH ASSESSMENT	1) EXPOSURE: INTRODUCTION	2) IMMERSION: DEVELOPMENT	3) COMPETENCE: ENTRY-TO-PRACTICE
	<b>KNOWLEDGE: ORAL EXAM</b> <i>Goal:</i> Understand the oral exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete <a href="#">Smiles for Life</a> Module #7</li> <li>Submit SFL Certificate of Completion</li> <li>Complete SFL Quiz for Module #7 (Appendix 1)</li> </ul>	<b>SKILL/BEHAVIOR</b> <i>Goal:</i> Describe best practices in dental caries management across the lifespan <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">CAMBRA: Best Practices in Dental Caries Management</a> (Huributt, 2011)</li> <li>Adult Caries Risk Assessment Tool CAMBRA for patients over age 6 (Appendix 7)</li> </ul>	<b>SKILL/BEHAVIOR</b> <i>Goal:</i> Demonstrate integration of HEENOT competency in physical exam of adult in clinical experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <a href="#">Putting the Mouth Back in the Head: HEENT to HEENOT</a> (Haber et al, 2015)</li> <li>Perform oral examination of adult in clinical experience, identifying any oral abnormalities</li> </ul>
	<b>KNOWLEDGE: ORAL CARE OF ADULT</b> <i>Goal:</i> Understand issues in oral care of adults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete <a href="#">Smiles for Life</a> Module #8</li> <li>Submit SFL Certificates of Completion</li> <li>Complete SFL Quizzes for Module #8 (Appendix 2, 3, 4)</li> <li>Download SFL Adult Oral Health Card (Appendix 5) for use in clinical practice</li> </ul>	<b>SKILL/BEHAVIOR</b> <i>Goal:</i> Demonstrate integration of HEENOT in oral health history, risk assessment and <p>Perform appropriate oral health history of adult, including frequency of sugar/tobacco/alcohol intake</p>	<b>SKILL/BEHAVIOR</b> <i>Goal:</i> Demonstrate integration of HEENOT competency in health history of adult in clinical experience <p>Perform oral health history, physical exam and complete risk assessment of older adult, with accurate documentation of oral health assessment findings</p>



Interprofessional  
Oral Health  
Faculty Toolkit

<http://www.ohnep.org/faculty-toolkit>

# Interprofessional Oral-Systemic Health - Clinical Experiences

## **Aims:**

- 1) Develop interprofessional oral health competencies by using simulation as a tool to bridge the education-to-practice gap
- 2) Produce a primary care workforce that is collaborative-practice ready for oral health

# IP Oral-Systemic Simulation

## Standardized Patient Experience

1. Team Huddle (5 min)
  - Introductions
  - Goals of IP experience
  - Directions
2. Case Study Discussion  
(40 min)
3. Debriefing (15 min)





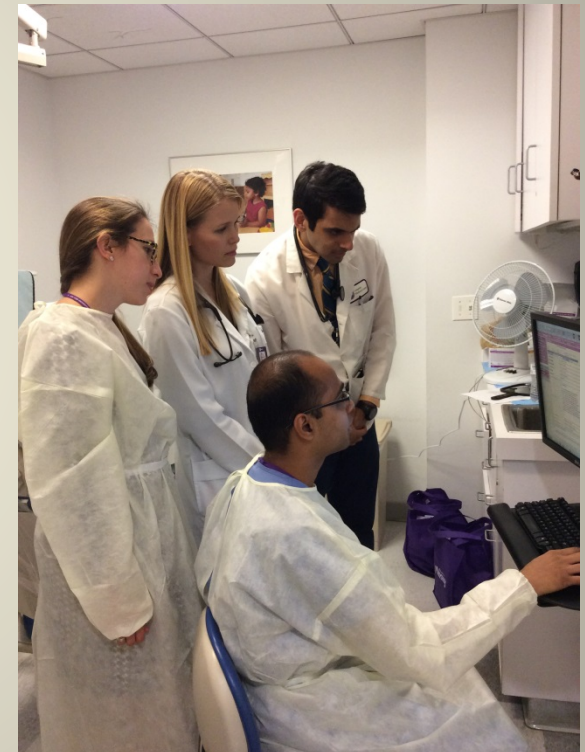
# IP Oral-Systemic Case Study Discussion

1. Team Huddle (5 min)
  - Introductions
  - Goals of IP experience
  - Directions
2. Case Study Discussion  
(40 min)
3. Debriefing (15 min)



# Pediatric Oral Health Interprofessional Clerkship

Patient 1	Patient 2	Patient 3
<b>NP</b> reviews chart	<b>MD</b> reviews chart	<b>DDS</b> reviews chart
<b>NP</b> takes history	<b>MD</b> takes history	<b>DDS</b> takes history
<b>DDS</b> does HEENOT exam and FV	<b>NP</b> does HEENOT exam and FV	<b>MD</b> does HEENOT exam and FV
<b>All</b> collaborate for plan	<b>All</b> collaborate for plan	<b>All</b> collaborate for plan
<b>MD</b> gives patient education, prevention, anticipatory guidance, handouts, referral and follow-up	<b>DDS</b> gives patient education, prevention, anticipatory guidance, handouts, referral and follow-up	<b>NP</b> gives patient education, prevention, anticipatory guidance, handouts, referral and follow-up





# Oral Health Outreach at Head Start

**Who participates:** Pediatric Nurse Practitioner students, dental students and Pediatric Dental Residents, NYUCD and NYUCN faculty

**Objective for DDS:** Learn effective behavioral management of pediatric dental patients from PNPs

**Objective for Nursing:** Learn to perform an oral exam and apply fluoride varnish from dental students



# Oral Health Service Learning Experiences



# Presentation & Workshop at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual ACNM Meeting

- IP role of midwives in promoting oral health during pregnancy and preventing early childhood caries (ECC) in their newborns
- Clinical competencies related to oral health assessment, oral health literacy, oral health promotion interventions, and collaborative partnerships with IP community colleagues and resources
- Strategies for integrating oral health competencies in midwifery program curricula, including Smiles for Life





# Nurse-Family Partnership



# Weaving Our Network

National *Interprofessional Initiative*  
on Oral Health *engaging clinicians  
eradicating dental disease*

DentaQuest  
FOUNDATION



Connecticut Health  
FOUNDATION  
*Changing Systems, Improving Lives.*

 **DELTA DENTAL**  
**Washington Dental Service  
Foundation**  
*Community Advocates for Oral Health*

**OHNEP**  
Oral Health Nursing  
Education and Practice

*Patient-Centered*  
**Primary Care**  
COLLABORATIVE

 **Nurse-Family  
Partnership**  
*Helping First-Time Parents Succeed®*

 **AMERICAN COLLEGE  
of NURSE-MIDWIVES**

 **National Maternal & Child  
Oral Health  
RESOURCE CENTER**

**TOSH**  
Interprofessional voice for oral health.

 **HRSA**

National Center for  Interprofessional  
Practice and  
Education

 **Oral  
Health  
America**



American  
Academy of  
Pediatrics 

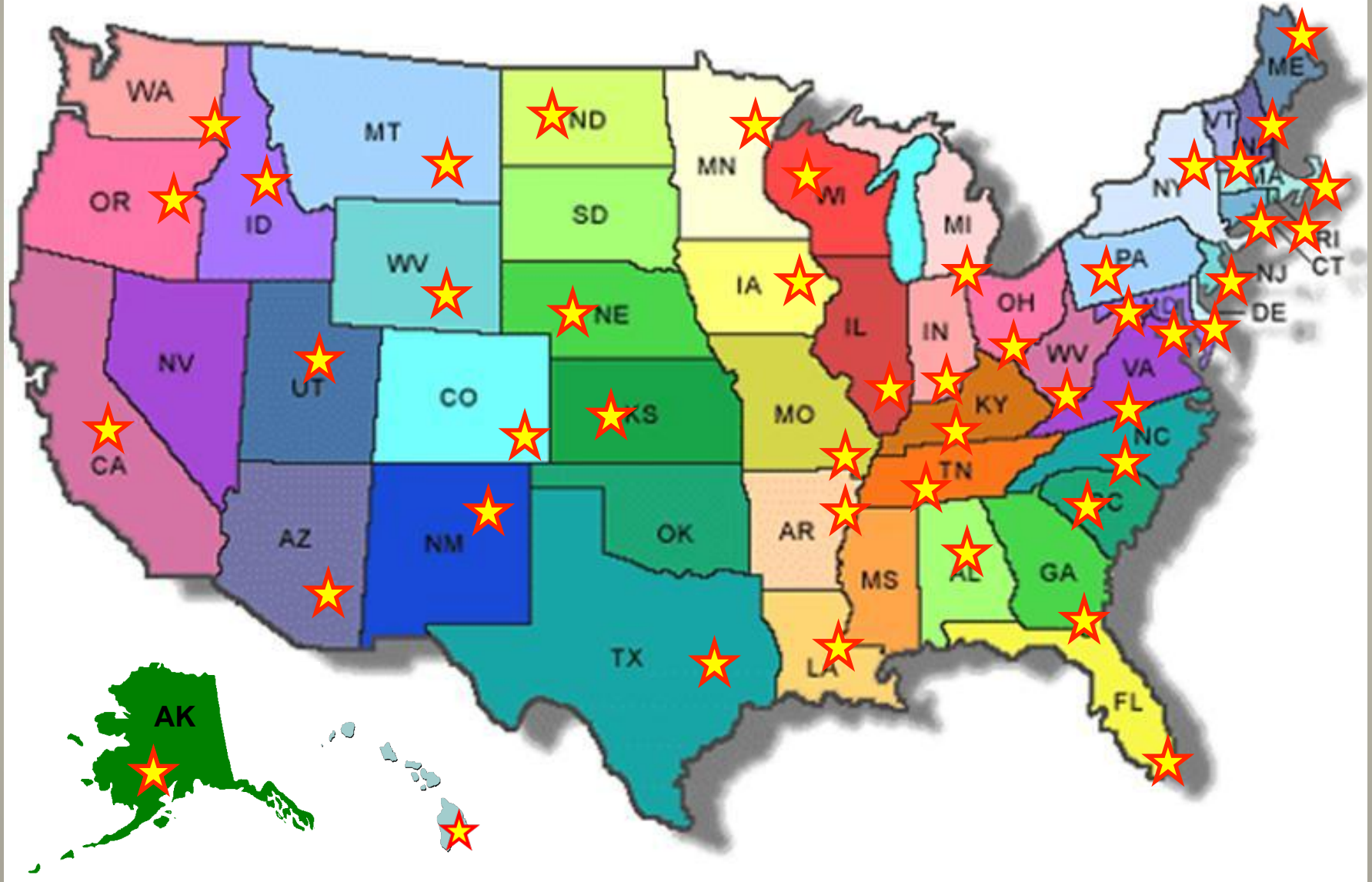
 **QUALIS  
HEALTH.**

 **ACP**

 **PAEA**  
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



# Collective Impact: Interprofessional Oral Health Initiatives (46 States)



# What have we learned?

- Organizational change process requires system-wide intervention
- Cultivate influential champions and capitalize on low hanging fruit
- Make oral health a standardized component of the PCMH, EHR and PIPs
- Incentivize primary care providers to include oral health through reimbursement and PI incentives
- Evaluate the impact of integration of IP OH on quality, cost-effectiveness, and provider/patient satisfaction

**We  
need  
YOUR  
help**





# The Missing Piece of PCMH



Pharmacy

Home Care

LTC

Missing Piece

Community  
Health Center

PCP/Medical Home

# References

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- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). (2014). *Integration of oral health and primary care practice*. Rockville, MD: Health Resources and Services Administration.



# Contact Information

## **Judith Haber, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN**

Associate Dean of Graduate Programs

The Ursula Springer Leadership Professor in Nursing

Executive Director,

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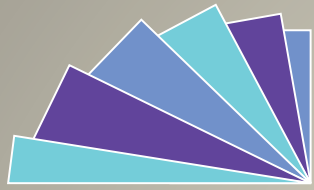
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Dr. Judith Haber is currently the Ursula Springer Leadership Professor in Nursing and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at NYU College of Nursing. She is the Executive Director of the national nursing oral health initiative, the Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice (OHNEP) program funded by the DentaQuest, Washington State Dental, and Connecticut Health Foundations. She is also the Principal Investigator of the HRSA funded Teaching Oral-Systemic Health (TOSH) program which is designed to develop oral health competencies in primary care providers by bringing nurse practitioner, dental, and medical students together for interprofessional oral-systemic simulation and clinical experiences.



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***Minnesota Oral Health Project (MNOHP):***

***A collaborative community approach to eliminating  
the caries crisis affecting high-risk children***

**Amos Deinard, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Washington Marriott Wardman Park**

**Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

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# Learning Objective(s)

Participants will gain knowledge in:

- 1) History of the availability of a dental home for high risk children;
- 2) The role that the primary care medical provider can play in caries prevention
- 3) The importance of the community in caries prevention in the counties of Greater MN-a model for other states
- 4) The long term impact

## **Fact:**

Primary Care Medical Providers (PCMP) see children many times in the first five years of life.



# Background (1969-1999)

## Observations as a Primary Care Medical Provider (PCMP) - Pediatrician

- Pre-1995 (CY/MIC project; FQHC)
  - federal dollars in budget, so readily available dental care
- Post-1995
  - generally unavailable dental care for high-risk children nationwide
- 1995-1999
  - FQHC-began to address oral health care as part of well-child care

# First Ever Surgeon General's Conference on Oral Health – 2000

- Olson Huff – MD – Into the Mouths of Babies
- Challenge
- Response – MN's DHS; DTAF

# 2000 – Present

- Because of challenge, focus changed to communities of high-risk children
- 9 districts, then 9 counties
- Arbitrary focus on SW Minnesota – Nobles County
- 1 county → 7
- 4H → K/L/R
- Lions 7 → 13
- SWIF → 21
- Lions → 46

# CPS—Caries Preventive Services

- PCMP to get trained o provide caries preventive services regularly
  - Oral Exam; Risk Assessment; Anticipatory Guidance; Fluoride Varnish; Dental Home
- PCMP help general dentists develop comfort level with 1 and 2 yr olds
- PCPM and dentists will collaborate in the oral health care of high risk children



# Impact Considerations

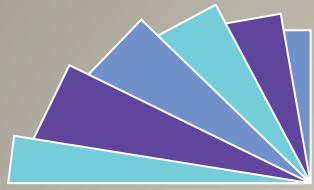
- If collaborative model works, caries prevalence should decrease
- Complication factor – dentists over age 50 (72% in one area of 7 counties) are retiring and are experiencing difficulty in selling practice.

# Contact Information

Amos Deinard, MD, MPH

deina001@umn.edu

Bio: 1969 – 2000 in primary care, caring for high-risk children; 2000-present (full-time) addressing the caries crisis affecting high-risk children nationwide.



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# ***2015 National Medicaid and CHIP Oral Health Symposium***

***Session # 7***

## ***Evolving Interprofessional Education and Practice: The Medical Perspective***

**Hugh Silk, MD, MPH, FAAFP**

**Washington Marriott Wardman Park**

**Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

# Learning Objective(s)

Participants will gain knowledge in:

1. Current climate of medical education and practice with regards to oral health
2. Opportunities in both settings for Oral Health Inter-Professional Education (IPE) and Inter-Professional Practice (IPP)
3. The role Medicaid can play in achieving the highest quality Oral Health IPE and IPP



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# Why do physicians care?

- 50 million Americans do not have access to a dentist
- 184 million people will not see a dentist this year







# Unavoidable!

## USPSTF A/B Recommendations for ages 2,3,4,5






[View All](#)[A](#)[B](#)[C](#)[D](#)[I](#)

### 2 - Recommended (A, B)

Grade	Title	Risk Info.	Details
<b>B*</b>	Dental Caries: Fluoride Varnish -- Infants and Children		
<b>B*</b>	Dental Caries: Oral Fluoride Supplementation -- Children Age 6 Months to 5 Years		

[View All](#)[A](#)[B](#)[C](#)[D](#)[I](#)

### 3 - Recommended (A, B)

Grade	Title	Risk Info.	Details
<b>B*</b>	Dental Caries: Fluoride Varnish -- Infants and Children		
<b>B*</b>	Dental Caries: Oral Fluoride Supplementation -- Children Age 6 Months to 5 Years		
<b>B*</b>	Visual Impairment: Screening -- All children at least once between ages of 3 and 5 years		

# How? An Evolutional Process

2001	<b>American Academy of Pediatrics:</b> Section on Oral Health
2003	<b>Society of Teachers in Family Medicine:</b> Smiles for Life
2003	<b>AAP Policy statement</b> Oral Health Risk Assessment Timing and Establishment of the Dental Home
2008	<b>AAP Policy Statement:</b> Preventive Oral Health Intervention for Pediatricians
2009	<b>American Dental Association:</b> Access to Care Summit
2010	<b>Dept. of Health and Human Services:</b> Oral Health Initiative
2011	<b>Healthy People 2020:</b> Oral Health = Leading Health Indicators
2011	<b>Institute of Medicine (IOM) and HRSA:</b> <i>Advancing Oral Health in America</i>
2011	<b>IOM:</b> <i>Improving Access to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable and Underserved Populations</i>
2011	<b>Assn. of American Medical Colleges (AAMC):</b> Oral health curricula competencies
2011	<b>ADEA, AAMC, AACN, AACP, ASPH, AACOM</b> Core Competencies for Interprofessional Practice
2012	<b>Oral Health Care During Pregnancy Expert Workgroup:</b> A National Consensus Statement



# Medical School Examples



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



University of  
Massachusetts  
Medical School

**VTC** | Virginia Tech Carilion  
School of Medicine and Research Institute

# Residency Examples




Floating Hospital  
for Children


at **Tufts** Medical  
Center

**Pediatric Residency Program**



# Practice Examples


**Marshfield Clinic**  
Don't just live. Shine.

Explore  Marshfield Clinic

Locations  
Find a location

Doctors  
Find a doctor

Sign in - My Marshfield Clinic

Search 

Specialties &gt; Dental Care

YOUR GUIDE TO GOOD DENTAL HEALTH

**Video**  
How does caring for your teeth and gums keep your whole body healthy?  
Watch the video**Find a Dentist**  
Find a Dental Location

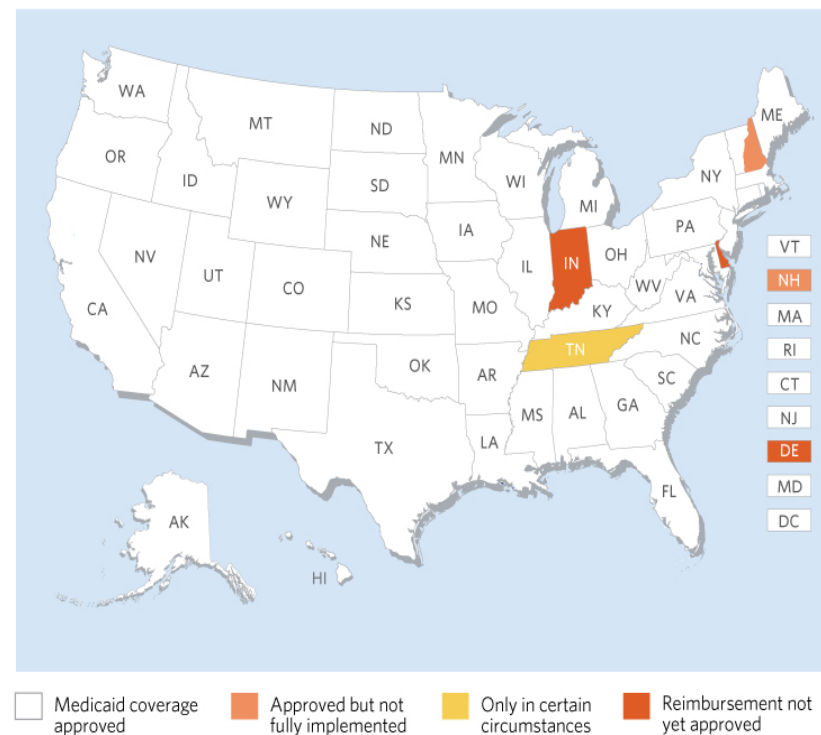
Good dental health means more than a bright smile and white teeth. Proper care of your mouth, teeth and gums will help prevent cavities, gum disease and other health problems.

**What is dental health?**  
Dental health is concerned with your mouth, teeth and gums. You and your dental professionals work as a team to keep your oral health the best it can be.**Why dental health is important**  
An attractive smile is only one reason for maintaining good dental health. It also means a higher quality of life and fewer related medical problems.

# What would help?

- More consistent coverage by age in par with USPSTF
- More consistent reimbursement
- Pay for performance – screen/advise, varnish, refer

**States with Medicaid funding for physician oral health screening and fluoride varnish**



Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, <http://www2.aap.org/oralhealth/docs/OralHealthReimbursementChart.xlsx>



# Share Best Practices and Resources

- Engaging medical offices
- Office flow
- EHR library

- Conferences
- Webinars
- Documents



**Smiles for Life**  
A national oral health curriculum

Home Online Courses Downloadable Modules State Prevention Programs Resources Links Contact Us

Welcome Steering Committee Endorsers Funders History Citation Sharing Our Websites FAQs Video

**Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum** 3rd edition

Smiles for Life is the nation's only comprehensive oral health curriculum. Developed by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Group on Oral Health and now in its third edition, this curriculum is designed to enhance the role of primary care clinicians in the promotion of oral health for all age groups through the development and dissemination of high-quality educational resources.

**For Individual Clinicians**

We've made it easy for individual physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, students, and other clinicians to access the curriculum and learn on their own time and at their own pace. Each of the courses is available online. Free Continuing Education credit is available.

**For Educators**

This curriculum format can be easily implemented in an academic setting. Included is a comprehensive set of educational objectives based on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) competencies, test questions, resources for further learning, oral health web links, an implementation guide, and detailed module outlines.

**Course Quick Links**

- Course 1: The Relationship of Oral to Systemic Health
- Course 2: Child Oral Health
- Course 3: Adult Oral Health
- Course 4: Acute Dental Problems
- Course 5: Oral Health & the Pregnant Patient
- Course 6: Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish & Counseling
- Course 7: The Oral Examination
- Course 8: Geriatric Oral Health

**Answering the Call: Joining the Fight for Oral Health**

Watch this informative and inspiring video which outlines both the challenge and progress in improving oral health as a vital component of effective primary care. Click the full screen icon in the bottom right hand corner of the video thumbnail to view it full-sized. This video is approximately seven minutes in length.

An extended version (21 minutes) of this documentary is also available.

# Quality Markers

## A Place To Engage Around Adults

- Level 1
  - Diabetics referral to a dentist
  - Oral health education as part of prenatal intake
- Level 2
  - EHR communication
  - Systems to increase adherence to appointments  
e.g. “warm handoffs”
- Level 3
  - Co-location
  - Co-management e.g. “group visits”

# Dentists Ready for Referrals

- More dentists accepting Medicaid
- More dentists comfortable with:
  - Infants
  - Pregnant Women
  - Intellectually Disabled Patients
- Dental School Education
- Continuing Education

# Promoting Cost Savings and Health Improvements

- Better oral health = better overall health
- Better oral health = less costs for Diabetes, CAD, etc





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[www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org](http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org)

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