

TIME TO TALK TEETH

ORAL HEALTH AND PREGNANCY

Oral health care is not just safe, but recommended for all patients during and after pregnancy. Talk to your patients about the importance of oral health care for them and their children.

PA Coalition for Oral Health offers a full range of resources focusing on oral health and pregnancy for you to share with patients.



Scan the QR code to request a free print resource packet.

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Leading Change for Oral Health in Pennsylvania

Who We Are

Community champions and advocates representing schools of public health, philanthropic organizations, businesses, dental and medical organizations, health facilities, insurance companies, and advocacy groups committed to improving the oral health of all Pennsylvanians

Our Mission

To improve oral health for all Pennsylvanians by uniting stakeholders to advance advocacy, policy, education, and innovative approaches

Our Priorities

- Supporting Pennsylvania oral workforce development
- Improving oral health for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable individuals
- Advancing and advocating for oral health policy and infrastructure across all systems
- Advocating for community water fluoridation

What We Do and Why

Advance policies and practices that increase access to oral health services and prevention-oriented education, especially for our most vulnerable Pennsylvanians. All Pennsylvanians deserve a healthy smile regardless of their dental coverage or circumstances.

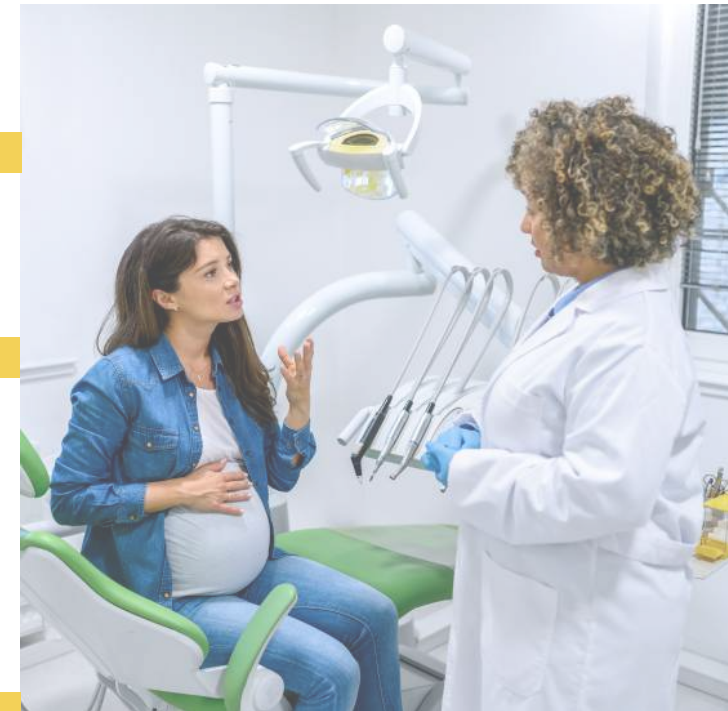
Join the Movement

Join the 1,200+ individual and organizational stakeholders by subscribing to our weekly newsletter.

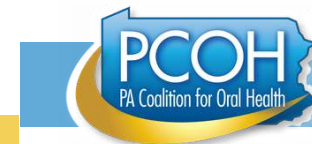


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Integrating Oral Care Into Your OB/GYN Practice



Steps and strategies for implementing anticipatory guidance and oral health services



Why Include Oral Health?

 Better pregnancy outcomes with a healthy mouth

 Improved chances of baby having a healthy mouth

 Accessible care for pregnant patients

 Helps build lifelong healthy dental habits

Mothers with high levels of untreated decay or tooth loss are at least 3 times more likely to have children with tooth decay.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2024

Steps for Implementing Care

 **Create a referral list of area providers**

Use PCOH Finding Dental Care page
paoralhealth.org/finding-dental-care

 **Gather oral health literature for patients**

Use PCOH Resource Materials page
paoralhealth.org/requestmaterials

 **Learn to apply fluoride varnish**

Use CPT Code 99188
This is the designated code for medical providers applying fluoride varnish
Combine with visit
The application of fluoride varnish can be billed in addition to the primary office visit, as long as the varnish application was not the *only* service provided.

 **Hire a public health dental hygiene practitioner (PHDHP)**

Offer whole-person care
Similar to hiring a diabetes educator or lactation consultant

What Having a PHDHP in the OB Office Looks Like

◆ Equipment

The PHDHP can use portable dental equipment and needed supplies.

◆ Office

The practice should provide a space (ex. exam room) with an electrical outlet and access to water.

◆ Billing

Done by the PHDHP either as a fee for service or direct Medicaid billing.

◆ Scheduling

Integrate within existing system or PHDHP create own schedule.

◆ Services provided

Cleanings and preventive services
Screenings
Anticipatory guidance
Referrals for restorative dental care

