

# Pediatric oral health



Every member of the care team, from birth to adolescence, plays a vital role in promoting oral health.



Part of the CareOregon Family

## Oral health begins before the first tooth and lasts a lifetime

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, oral health is an integral part of a child's well-being. Primary care providers have a unique opportunity to provide oral health services and refer children and their families to dental providers. A dental visit is recommended for children by 1 year of age.

### Early childhood cavities (caries)

Social determinants of health can lead to a higher risk of dental disease. Left untreated, dental disease leads to pain and infection and can potentially affect social and emotional well-being, eating habits and missed school or work hours.



Normal healthy primary teeth



**Brown spots** 



Chalky white spots



Severe decay

According to the CDC, 34 million school hours are lost each year because of emergency dental care among 5- to 17-year-old children.

## How can primary care providers help?

#### Add preventive oral health services to routine well child/adolescent visits

- Oral health screening or assessment
- Guidance and education on the importance of oral health
- Fluoride varnish application
- Referral to primary dental home
  Note: Some of these services may be reimbursable.

#### Jackson Care Connect oral health resources and provider support

We offer resources to support oral health management and connect patients to dental care:

- Educational curricula and training for provider teams
- Data and dashboard tools
- Dental navigation tools
- ▶ Technical assistance
- Support for workflow implementation and any questions

For support, please contact oralhealth@careoregon.org

#### Oregon Health Plan dental benefits

OHP members of all ages have a comprehensive dental benefit package, including:

- Exams, X-rays and cleanings
- Fluoride treatments
- Deep cleaning for gum disease
- Fillings
- Tooth removal
- Partial dentures, generally every five years
- Full dentures, generally every 10 years
- Crowns (limited)
- Root canals (limited)

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Thank you for helping your pediatric patients get off to a strong start.

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