



# Impressions

Issue 2

Stay Connected to the Bureau of Oral Health and Dental Services

Winter 2015

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## Delaware Oral Health Coalition 2015 Annual Meeting

By Chris Oakes  
*DOHC Acting Chair*

The Delaware Oral Health Coalition (DOHC) held its annual meeting at the Dover Downs Conference Center on September 18, 2015.

The DOHC is a statewide coalition made up of member organizations that promote optimum oral health for all Delawareans through oral health education and advocacy. Participants representing an array of health and social service agencies and community organizations gathered to network, learn, and chart a course for 2016.

Building upon the coalition's progress made to date, participants collectively recommended three oral

health priority areas for the coalition to focus on in 2016. The DOHC Action Groups now plan to reconvene to identify and/or develop activities around these oral health priorities. As we discovered, some partners are already implementing innovative activities at a local level.

To capture this information and help spread the word throughout the network, the DOHC invites all partners to share their stories and best practices via the DOHC webpage at <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hsm/dohchome.html>.

We welcome your continued participation in the DOHC. This meeting was made possible with a grant from the DentaQuest Foundation.

## February is National Children's Dental Health Month

National Children's Dental Health Month, celebrated in February each year, began as a two-city event in Ohio more than 70 years ago. Since its first observances in 1941, the program has grown from a single-day event to the current month-long observance.

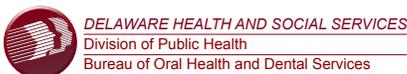
Attitudes and habits established at an early age are critical to maintain good oral health throughout life, according to the American Dental Association (ADA). By participating in the annual celebration, members of the dental team, parents, teachers, and others can help keep children's smiles beautiful now and for years to come.

### National Children's Dental Health Month Resources:

**American Dental Association:** <http://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/national-childrens-dental-health-month/>

**National Education Association:** <http://www.nea.org/grants/National-Childrens-Dental-Health-Month.htm>

**Delaware State Dental Society:** <http://www.delawarestatedentalsociety.org/kids-smile.html>



## A note to medical providers:

# What to know about fluoride varnish reimbursements

Effective July 1, 2015, the [Delaware Medical Assistance Program](#) (DMAP) reimburses approved primary care providers for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 99188 — the topical application of fluoride varnish.

Only physicians, physician assistants, certified registered nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists who successfully complete the free online Smiles for Life Fluoride Varnish course ([Course 6: Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish and Counseling](#)) can complete the oral health screening and apply the fluoride varnish.

Approved medical providers can bill CPT code 99188 to the DMAP one time in six months, when completed on the same day as an approved Medicaid well-child visit for children between ages 6 months through 5 years old.

### Billing procedure

Fluoride varnish is a benefit outside of the managed care package and must be billed to the DMAP for reimbursement. All claims billed for this code must include the certificate serial number for the Smiles for Life Course 6 and indicate one of the following codes: D0601 - Low caries risk; D0602 - Moderate caries risk; or D0603 - High caries risk, based on your oral health assessment in the comment section. On paper claim submissions using a 1500 form, place this information in box 19.

Reimbursement for fluoride varnish includes the following:

1. Oral health screening to be completed prior to application of fluoride varnish
2. Completion of the Oral Health Risk Assessment Tool



3. Application of topical fluoride varnish
4. Oral health and dietary education
5. Referral to a dental home for children who have a moderate or high risk assessment

### Coordination of care

- When referring a child to a dental provider, instruct the member to inform the dental provider the date the fluoride varnish was completed.
- During a well-child visit, inquire with the guardian of the member if they have a dental home and have seen a dentist in the last six months.
- CPT code 99188 and Current Dental Terminology (CDT) code D1206 are used interchangeably and can only be billed one time in a six-month period.
- The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends all children see a dentist by their first birthday.

*This article was adapted from the Delaware Medical Assistance Program's Third Quarter Special Bulletin*



## Hygienist Corner

### The importance of mouth guards for student athletes

As the second half of the school year unfolds and student-athletes begin practicing their various winter and spring sports, it is imperative to remember the importance of mouth guards in protecting and preventing oral health injury.

Mouth guards absorb and reduce the forces of impact which helps prevent damage to the soft tissues such as the cheeks, tongue, and gums in addition to preventing injury to the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), teeth, and jaws.

The American Dental Association (ADA) and other sports dentistry groups recommend the use of mouth guards in all organized team sports where a mouth injury can occur.

The sports for which ADA recommends the use of mouth guards are:

- football
- soccer
- baseball/softball
- basketball
- volleyball
- wrestling

There are three types of mouth guards:

**Stock** — ready to wear

**Mouth-formed** — boil first, let cool, and then bite to fit

**Custom-fitted** — made by a dental professional from an impression made of your teeth.



After using a mouth guard, it should be rinsed with water and stored in a rigid container with holes in it to allow the mouth guard to dry. Athletic mouth guards can last for more than one season when cared for properly.

Mouth guards have been found to prevent more than 200,000 mouth injuries a year in high school and college football.

For more information about the importance and proper use of mouth guards, visit <http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/az-topics/m/mouthguards>.



## Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council launches Oral Health Awareness Campaign

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) recently announced the launch of a new oral health public awareness campaign aimed at improving the oral health of adults with developmental disabilities. The theme of the campaign is education, prevention, and access.

“We know that adults with developmental disabilities have less comprehensive access to good oral health care services,” said Larry Henderson, chair of the DDC Adult Issues Committee, which initiated the public awareness campaign. “Only 65 percent of adults with disabilities have been to the dentist in the last year compared to 78 percent of adults without a disability. We hope this program increases awareness and closes that gap.”

Access to oral health care services is further complicated for adults with developmental disabilities who may not have access to private insurance. Adults with disabilities who are insured by Medicaid are often surprised to discover that Medicaid does not cover routine dental care after age 21. Lack of insurance coverage and overall access to services may explain why adults with developmental disabilities tend to have more cavities and periodontal disease than the general population.

The oral health public awareness campaign will reach out to Delawareans with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers, dentists, and advocacy groups across the state. A variety of tools, including videos, pamphlets, and social media will be produced in both English and Spanish to reach as many people as possible.

For more information, visit <http://ddc.delaware.gov/OralHealth.shtml>.



## Oral Health 2016

# Student Drawing Contest



You could win a

## Philips Sonicare™ Toothbrush For Kids

Attach your illustration with this form:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I certify that this drawing is my own original work. I understand that by signing this form, I authorize the Delaware Division of Public Health, Bureau of Oral and Dental Services to use my artwork for oral health awareness in any publications, campaigns, displays, brochures, newsletters, publicity, and any other purposes deemed necessary.

Participants must be 3-13 years of age, a Delaware resident, and include a signed entry form. Only one illustration per contestant. Members of the judging panel and their relatives are not eligible.

**Entries will be accepted through January 26, 2016.**

**Submit entry to:**

DPH-BOHDS  
Barbara Antlitz  
417 Federal Street  
Dover, DE 19901  
Fax: 302-661-7229  
Or Email: [Barbara.Antlitz@state.de.us](mailto:Barbara.Antlitz@state.de.us)

