

# Mouth Matters

Integrating Oral Health  
into Medical Care



## Common Questions about Oral Health Services

### **My patient brushes with fluoride toothpaste and sees a DDS. Why should I provide oral health services?**

Although your patient is on the right track, you still have an essential role in reinforcing the importance of oral health as part of overall health. Screening and caregiver education is an important way to do that. Both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and American Academy of Pediatrics recognize fluoride varnish as an evidence-based service and recommend applying it starting at the age of primary tooth eruption, usually around age 1.

### **How much time will oral health services add to a visit?**

These oral health services will add only a couple minutes to a visit.

### **What will we need to do to integrate oral health services into routine care?**

With your clinical team, you will primarily need to establish the workflow, EHR documenting template and billing procedures. Then, your staff will participate in an oral health services training. MouthMatters program staff will work with you every step of the way.

### **How long is the oral health services training?**

The training takes one hour. It covers basic oral health concepts, including the oral-systemic connection, what to look for in a screening, and key oral health messages, as well as an opportunity to practice applying fluoride varnish.

### **Are oral health services billable?**

Yes! All insurers are required by the ACA to cover fluoride varnish with no copay, and Medicaid reimburses a total of \$70.29 for all three oral health services (as of June 2019).

### **Who do I contact about the Arcora Foundation MouthMatters program?**

Madlen Caplow (mcaplow@arcorafoundation.org)