



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor

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GWENDOLYN L. HARRIS
Commissioner

KATHRYN A. PLANT
Director

MEDICAID COMMUNICATION NO. 02-20

DATE: September 24, 2002

TO: County Welfare Directors
Institutional Services Section Supervisors

SUBJECT: Oral Health Stuffer

The purpose of this communication is to request that you distribute the oral health stuffers you will receive in a separate mailing. Those counties not routinely mailing to beneficiaries are asked to place the stuffers in the waiting room or other appropriate places so they are available to beneficiaries. We expect to mail these twice yearly, once in August/September and again in February.

Tooth decay is the most chronic childhood disease in America, and is entirely preventable. As a part of our effort to eradicate dental disease and improve the oral health of our children, please distribute this stuffer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn A. Plant".

Kathryn A. Plant
Director

KP: BI

Attachment

c: Clifton R. Lacy, M.D., Commissioner
William Conroy, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Health and Senior Services

David C. Heins, Director
Division of Family Development

Doris Jones, Acting Director
Division of Youth and Family Services

How Can You Protect Your Child's Oral Health ?

One way is to have regular dental check-ups to make sure problems are found and treated early. Untreated dental disease in children is associated with a number of serious adult health problems, such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke and delivering a baby with a low birth weight. A good oral health program should include:

- A visit to the dentist beginning at age 1 and every 6 months thereafter;
- An oral examination, cleaning and, if appropriate, fluoride treatment and sealants; and
- Education on the importance of proper nutrition and daily brushing and flossing.

Tooth decay is entirely preventable, yet is the most chronic childhood disease in America.

If you have not received these services, call your primary care dentist today to make an appointment. If you need help in getting these services and are enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care, please call your HMO or the Managed Care Hotline at 1-800-356-1561 for assistance. If you are enrolled in Medicaid fee-for-service, call your local Medical Assistance Customer Center or the Dental Services Hotline at 1-800-782-0181 for assistance.

Medical Assistance Customer Centers

Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland: (856) 690-5208

Bergen/Passaic: (973) 977-4077

Burlington/Mercer: (856) 787-3855

Camden/Gloucester/Salem: (856) 614-2870

Essex: (973) 648-3700

Hudson: (201) 217-7100

Ocean: (732) 255-0731

Monmouth: (732) 761-3600

Middlesex/Union: (732) 499-5700

Morris/Hunterdon/Somerset/Sussex/Warren: (973) 631-6440

¿Cómo puede proteger la salud dental de su hijo?

Una forma de hacerlo es llevarlo a chequeos dentales regularmente para asegurarse de encontrar y tratar a tiempo los problemas dentales. Las enfermedades dentales de los niños que no se tratan están asociadas con muchos problemas graves de salud que padecen los adultos, tales como las enfermedades del corazón, diabetes, embolias y nacimiento de bebés de bajo peso. Un buen programa de salud dental debe incluir:

- Una visita al dentista cuando cumple un año de edad y cada seis meses a partir de ese momento;
- Un examen oral, limpieza y, si es apropiado, tratamientos y sellos con flúor; y
- La información acerca de la importancia de una nutrición correcta, así como cepillarse los dientes y usar el hilo dental.

Las caries de los dientes se pueden evitar completamente y sin embargo continúan siendo la enfermedad infantil crónica más común en Estados Unidos.

Si usted no ha recibido estos servicios, llame a su dentista de cuidados primarios hoy mismo para hacer una cita. Si necesita ayuda para obtener estos servicios y está inscrito en un Plan de Cuidados Administrados de Medicaid, por favor llame a su HMO o a la Línea de Ayuda de Cuidados Administrados al 1-800-356-1561 para recibir asistencia. Si está inscrito en el programa de tarifa por servicio de Medicaid, llame a su Centro de Asistencia Médica para el Cliente o a la Línea de Ayuda para Servicios Dentales al teléfono 1-800-782-0181 y solicite asistencia.

Centros de Asistencia Médica para el Cliente

Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland: (856) 690-5208

Bergen/Passaic: (973) 977-4077

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