

**Poster Submission Form**  
**Pediatrics for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Symposium**  
**Oral Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:**  
**Something to Smile About – Pediatrician’s Role in**  
**Oral Health**

**Friday, October 10, 2008**  
**Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA**

The American Academy of Pediatrics is holding the Peds-21 Poster Session & Luncheon followed by the Peds-21 Symposium. For more information about Peds-21, go to: <http://www.aap.org/peds-21> and be sure to read the Peds-21 Call for Posters.

**Abstract Submission Deadline: June 13, 2008**

Attn: [astolic@aap.org](mailto:astolic@aap.org)

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**POSTER SESSION ABSTRACT INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Planning and implementation of a successful physician-based oral health preventive program in North Carolina: ‘Into the Mouths of Babes’

**POSTER SESSION ABSTRACT BODY:**

**Background:** Early childhood caries (ECC) is a serious problem and is increasing in the preschool population. It can be prevented but dental workforce issues prevent high risk children from accessing care in North Carolina (NC). NC physicians are willing to provide oral preventive care to these children.

**Project Objectives:** The objective of the project is to decrease early childhood caries by increasing access to oral preventive care. The purpose of this presentation is to describe factors that contributed to its successful implementation.

**Target population(s):** NC Medicaid children from tooth eruption to 3 1/2 years of age (42 months)

**Project Description:** Primary care medical professionals provide oral screening, fluoride varnish, and parent counseling for the targeted population. Children may receive a maximum of 6 visits in which these services are provided during well child, sick, or other visits to their primary medical care provider.

(maximum 100 words)

**Methods/Strategies:** The NC Academy of Family Physicians and the NC Pediatric Society strongly encourage their members to participate in the program. Medical providers (and often staff as well) attend a 1 1/2 hour CME training session that includes information about the 3-part procedure, caries risk assessment, fluoride varnish safety and effectiveness, logistics of incorporating the procedure into practice routines, and billing instructions. The project coordinator provides provider- and practice-level support for implementation, billing, and additional training needs. Medicaid reimburses \$53.51 for each visit in which all three procedures are provided for up to 6 visits per child through 42 months of age.

(maximum 100 words)

**Results/Impact:** Oral preventive care for the targeted population has increased 30-fold with over 100,000 procedures provided annually. The oral health services are provided for children from all of the state's 100 counties through a network of more than 425 primary care sites (private practices, health departments, community health centers). Approximately 40% of eligible 1- and 2-year-old children receive services. Oral preventive care and treatment services have increased in dental offices as well. Data show a 39% decrease in caries related treatment services in anterior teeth for children have 4 or more visits in which preventive dental services were provided before age 3.

(maximum 100 words)

**Conclusion/Key Lesson(s) Learned:**

- Physicians and other primary care medical providers will address oral health problems during child care.
- A statewide partnership of key stakeholders is essential for success. This group must work together to ensure project coordination, provider participation, fair reimbursement, training requirements, and evaluation of the project.
- A key to successful adoption and implementation in individual practices is an oral health 'champion'. This person must have an interest in oral health as a component of overall health and convey that message to other providers and staff in the practice.
- A project coordinator to conduct training and provide support brings consistency to the program.
- Reimbursement must be an amount that providers consider fair.

(maximum 150 words)

**TABLES/FIGURES/PHOTOS (limit 4 total, 2 MB total) (optional):** Please add any tables, figures, and/or photographs to the space below that will further help explain your abstract. If using photos, please ensure that the subjects cannot be identified through identifying marks or features.

**Disclosure Form:** Submissions will not be considered without disclosing any conflicts of interest. The submitting *author and all co-authors* are responsible for reviewing the AAP Conflict of Interest/Disclosure Policy and completing, signing, and submitting the form along with your abstract by August 9, 2008. All conflict of interest information is included with this call for abstracts.

**ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT: By checking this box, I understand that if my abstract submission is accepted, I am responsible for all of my expenses, including meeting registration, travel, hotel, meals and transportation.**

Poster session abstracts must be **received** by *June 13, 2008* via email at [astolic@aap.org](mailto:astolic@aap.org).