Brightening Oral Health: Teaching and Implementing Oral Health Risk Assessments in Pediatric Care

Background

- Multiple studies document that the development and publication of evidence-based guidelines alone do not translate into improved care.
- Practical tools and strategies have been identified as important components to assist pediatricians in making changes in practice to improve care.

What is QuIIN?

- A network of practicing pediatricians and their staff teams who use quality improvement methods to test tools, interventions, and strategies in order to improve healthcare and outcomes for children and their families.

QuIIN Members

- Like to be on the cutting-edge of practice innovations.
- Clinician in practice who likes to get change started.

Brightening Oral Health

The Bright Futures Education Center and Oral Health Initiative, with generous funding from the Procter & Gamble: Live, Learn, Thrive, tested the feasibility of the data collection tool that has been developed for a project looking at the viability of implementing oral health risk assessments into pediatric health supervision visits.

Testing Results

Did You Find the Oral Health Risk Assessment Tool Helpful?

- Over 80% of the practices found the tool to be helpful.

- "It makes health care practitioners think about risk factors for caries"
  --Testing QuIIN Pediatrician

Was the Tool Helpful to Identify High Risk Patients for Dental Caries?

- "Prompted discussion about dental care/caries risk with patients and families"
  --Testing QuIIN Pediatrician

Practice Feedback

Practices said the following about the oral health risk assessment tool:
- “Helped with identification of parental dental home”
- “Prompted questions about the dental home”
- “Easy to complete, makes you consider other risk factors”
- “To the point, precise, easy to administer”
- “Well organized, covers all important issues and serves as a teaching tool”
- “Ease of use & short”
- “Prompted discussion about dental care/caries risk with patients and families”
- “Fairly comprehensive”
- “Quick”
- “It makes health care practitioners think about risk factors for caries”
- “Makes you think about doing an assessment”
- “Enjoyed the ease of administration”

Key Lessons

QuIIN demonstrated a successful and standard mechanism for translating evidence into the oral health risk assessment that can be easily implemented into pediatric practice. This tool can lead to improvement of oral health care during health supervision (i.e., well child) visits.

Lessons learned through Brightening with Oral Health:

- Implementing the oral health risk assessment during well child visits is feasible in the busy pediatric practice.
- On average implementation and use of the oral health risk assessment tool took 2 minutes during the visit.
- Over 80% of the practices found the tool easy to implement and did not need to change their current practice to fully implement the tool and complete oral health risk assessments.
- Future thought should be given to making the tool electronic and compatible with Electronic Health Records.

Next Phase

The next phase of Brightening Oral Health is currently underway and involves:

- Institutional Review Board Approval
- Community level training with practice sites to decrease barriers for referral and increase knowledge about oral health
- Working with 5 sites to implement the tool and collect improvement data over 6 months using the Model of Improvement for measurable results.