

Into the Mouth of Babes Provider Training

Agenda

- Overview
- Goals
- Objectives
- Wrap Up — Q&A

Overview

The Into the Mouths of Babes (IMB) program is a public health initiative that aims to improve the oral health of young children, particularly those from underserved communities.

The program is a collaborative effort between medical and dental professionals to integrate preventive dental services into routine medical check-ups for young children.



Goals

The goals of the Healthy Blue Care Together IMB training program are to educate providers to prevent and reduce early childhood tooth decay and to increase the referral of high-risk children to a dental home.



Objectives

The primary objectives of this training include:

1. Equip providers with the skills and knowledge needed to conduct comprehensive oral evaluations.
2. Train providers to implement effective risk assessments to identify high-risk children and ensure timely referrals to appropriate health services.
3. Educate providers on the importance of fluoride varnish application as a preventive dental measure.
4. Familiarize providers with the guidelines and requirements for Medicaid coding and billing practices.

Equip Providers with Skills and Knowledge

IMB program:

- North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) trains medical providers to deliver preventive oral health services to young children insured by Medicaid.
- Allows previously trained medical providers and staff to train others in their practice using the IMB online oral health toolkit.

Training:

- NC DHHS trains medical providers to deliver preventive oral health services to young children insured by Medicaid.

Visit the NC DHHS website for more information at

<https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/oral-health/partners-providers/mouths-babies-imb>

Implement Effective Risk Assessments

Oral prevention procured:

- Oral evaluation and risk assessment
- Counseling with primary caregivers
- Application of topical fluoride varnish

Reimbursement:

- Blue Cross NC reimburses medical providers for oral prevention given to Healthy Blue Care Together members.
- Medical professionals can provide the fluoride varnish to a child a total of six times from tooth eruption until three and a half years of age (42 months).

- Ongoing evaluation conducted by the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
- Reduction of 21% in hospitalizations for dental treatment for children receiving four or more IMB visits before three years of age
- Reduction of 17.7% in caries on average for children receiving four or more IMB visits before three years of age
- Statewide decline in dental caries rates since 2004
- A reduced gap in tooth decay for children from low-income families at the community level

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Coding and billing:

Dental services are defined as all services billed as dental using the American Dental Association's Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes, except for the two CDT codes associated with the IMB/Physician Fluoride Varnish Program:

- D0145
- D1206

Wrap Up — Q&A

Thank you

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