Building a Culture for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice in Oral Health

George E. Thibault, MD Nexus Award
Broad, Multi-System Interprofessional Collaborations For Healthcare Transformation

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Why are we here?

National *Interprofessional Initiative* on Oral Health  
*engaging clinicians, eradicating dental disease*

A **Systems** Change Initiative  
Advancing Interprofessional Education and Integrated Oral Health Care

*Initiative activities are made possible as a result of funding from the DentaQuest Partnership and the Arcora Foundation*
How Did We Get Here?

108 Million
People visit a medical provider but
not a dental provider

27 Million
Visit a dental provider but
not a medical provider

Flow of Oral Health Information in Patient Care

Primary Care physician
Diabetes Screening

Diabetes, so endocrinologist

If heart attack, cardiologist
If stroke, neurologist
If chronic kidney disease, nephrologist

General Dentist
Periodontal Screening

Periodontal disease, so periodontist

If root canal, endodontist

Communication is tenuous, usually carried out by patient, if at all

Adapted from Powell and Din 2008
Health Professional Shortage Areas

62 million Americans live in dental health professional shortage areas

Consortium: Funders, health professionals + national organizations
Vision: Eradicate dental disease
Mission: Engage primary care team
Focus: Integrate oral health into primary care education + practice

The Short Answer

NIIOH is a systems change initiative that provides “Backbone Support” and facilitates interprofessional agreement and alignment to ready an interprofessional oral health workforce for whole person care.
The Opportunity for Change

Interprofessional Competencies
The “What” and “How”

Collective Impact

2020 Surgeon General Report
Support, align and connect partner efforts to integrate oral health into education and practice.
Smiles For Life

Relationship of Oral & Systemic Health

Oral
Systemic

COURSE 1

Child Oral Health

COURSE 2

Adult Oral Health

COURSE 3

Acute Dental Problems

COURSE 4

Pregnancy & Woman's Oral Health

COURSE 5

Caries Risk Assessment Fluoride Varnish & Counseling

COURSE 6

The Oral Exam

COURSE 7

Geriatric Oral Health

COURSE 8
Facilitate Interprofessional Agreement

Endorsing organizations representing

- Medicine
- PA’s
- Nursing
- Dentistry
- Dental Hygiene
- Pharmacy
- Community Health Centers
- And More!
Smiles for Life Discrete Site Visits

Discrete Site Visits
2010 - 2018

Since the site launched in June 2010, there have been:

- **102,082** registered users
- **299,0412** courses completed for CE credit
- **51,872** modules downloaded by educators
Smiles for Life Survey

Key Question:

• How does Smiles for Life influence practice?

How Does SFL Influence Practice?

Exhibit 5. Proportion of Providers Reporting Influence of Smiles for Life on Practice, by Oral Health Activity*

- Conduct caries risk assessments (n=248) | 90%
- Conduct oral health exams with patients (n=203) | 87%
- Provide anticipatory guidance on oral health (n=385) | 87%
- Apply fluoride varnish when indicated (n=260) | 85%
- Conduct oral cancer screening exams (n=95) | 75%
- Refer patients for dental care (n=417) | 63%

*Influence on practice means that providers reported that Smiles for Life influenced their practice of oral health activities in one or more of the following three ways: (1) led them to start performing oral health activities; (2) allowed them to perform oral health activities more regularly, and (3) helped them perform oral health activities better. The n’s on this chart indicate the number of providers who reported performing each
Influence on 6 Key Activities

- **Refer patients for dental care (n=417)**
  - Started: 7%
  - Do more regularly: 29%
  - Do better: 38%
  - No impact: 38%

- **Provide anticipatory guidance on oral health (n=385)**
  - Started: 13%
  - Do more regularly: 35%
  - Do better: 60%
  - No impact: 14%

- **Apply fluoride varnish when indicated (n=260)**
  - Started: 47%
  - Do more regularly: 22%
  - Do better: 35%
  - No impact: 15%
Influence on 6 Key Activities

**Conduct caries risk assessments (n=248)**
- Started: 19%
- Do more regularly: 32%
- Do better: 58%
- No impact: 11%

**Conduct annual oral exams with patients (n=203)**
- Started: 14%
- Do more regularly: 37%
- Do better: 60%
- No impact: 13%

**Conduct oral cancer screening exams (n=95)**
- Started: 14%
- Do more regularly: 23%
- Do better: 50%
- No impact: 25%
Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care

Oral Health Delivery Framework

5 actions primary care teams can take to protect and promote their patients' oral health. Within the scope of practice for primary care; possible to implement in diverse practice settings.

ASK about oral health risk factors and symptoms of oral disease

LOOK for signs that indicate oral health risk or active oral disease

DECIDE on the most appropriate response

ACT offer preventive interventions and/or referral for treatment

DOCUMENT as structured data for decision support and population management

Preventive interventions: fluoride therapy; dietary counseling to protect teeth and gums; oral hygiene training; therapy for substance use; medication changes to address dry mouth; chlorhexidine rinse.


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National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health
Field-Testing a Conceptual Framework

19 diverse healthcare delivery organizations: Private practices, Federally Qualified Health Centers; medical only and on-site dental
Adults with diabetes (12), pediatrics (5), pregnancy (1), adult well visits (1)
EHR Platforms: eCW (5), EPIC (8), NextGen (2), Centricity (2), Success EHS (2)

Using population health to address “missed opportunities”
Field-Testing Results Informed the Creation of the Implementation Guide and Tools

“Oral Health Integration Implementation Guide”
Toolkit for primary care teams (Released 10/10/16)

What’s in the Guide?

• Workflow maps
• Referral agreements
• Patient engagement strategies
• Patient/family education resources
• EHR templates
• Case examples
• Impact data and more

Resources available at:
Additional Core Partners:
PA Leadership Initiative on Oral Health
NYU’s Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Initiative

OHNEP LEADS THE WAY
OHNEP is at the vanguard of helping nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, nurses, and other health professionals incorporate oral health into patient care.

Why? Oral health and general health are interconnected. Research evidence links poor oral health like periodontal disease with diabetes, cancer, heart and lung diseases, and progression of dementia and Alzheimer’s, among others. Yet, few health professionals integrate oral health in their clinical practice.
Physician Assistant Leadership Initiative
On Oral Health

PA National Organizations

American Academy of Physician Assistants
Student Academy

American Academy of Physician Assistants
Connecting PAs, Transforming Care

Physician Assistant Education Association

Accreditation Review Commission for Education
for the Physician Assistant, Inc.

nccpa
Certification. Excellence.

Collective Impact

NCCPA
ARC-PA
PAEA
AAPA

Patient Centered Oral Health Care

Connecting Partners Who Can Make a Difference
A Longitudinal Lens: Growth in PA Program OH Curriculum Integration


PAs who received education in oral health and disease were ~ 2.79 times more likely (95% CI=1.39-5.59, P=0.0038) to provide oral health services in their clinical practice, compared to those who did not receive any education in oral health competencies.
NIIOH: A Recognized Thought Leader for Public and Private Convenings by Policy Organizations, Payors, Public and Private Health Systems
The organizational change process requires system-wide intervention

Having the right people, right place, right reason can change ideas and practice

A key is having the right tools and strategies to impact knowledge, skills and attitudes of providers

We cannot achieve our vision of “oral health for all” unless we change our approach to oral health care

Integration and collaboration is key, we can’t do this alone!
Many Thanks to Our Legacy Funders

Where Do We Go From Here?

We need to continue to work together to create a shared vision for interprofessional whole person care, defining shared performance measures that can catalyze new education and evaluation strategies with a focus on prevention, value and population health.