

# Oral Health: Bridging Medicine and Dentistry – A Family Medicine Perspective

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Family Medicine and Community Health

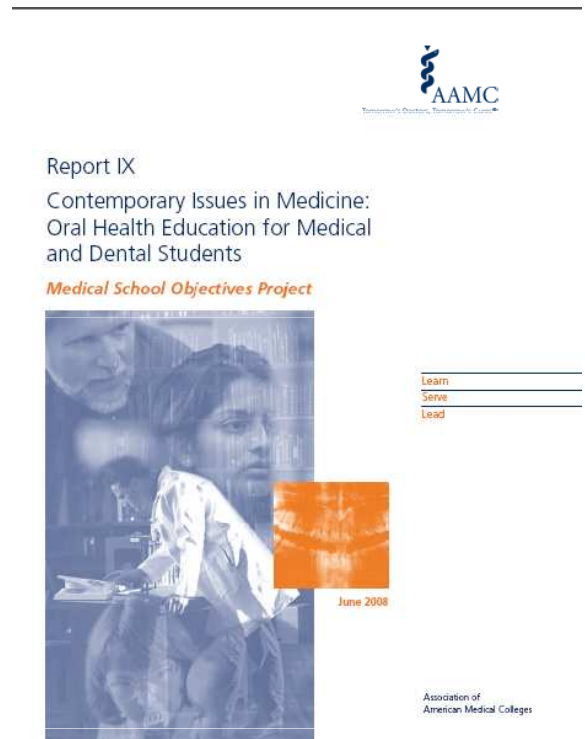
# Learning Objectives

By the end of this seminar the participant will:

- 1) Understand what family medicine is doing about oral health education and service
- 2) Describe the implementation issues and challenges we have faced and how we have overcome these
- 3) The financial aspects of making this work

# Medical School Education

- Current Survey of all MD/DO schools
- AAMC MSOP document
- Board Exams
- UMASS example
  - Anatomy
  - Inter-clerkship
  - Community Health Clerkship
- Colorado, UWASH
- Created Smiles for Life



# Smiles for Life Curriculum

## www.smilesforlife2.org

ACGME formatted educational objectives

7 annotated 50 minute PowerPoint modules

1. The relationship of oral to systemic health
2. Child oral health
3. Adult oral health
4. Acute dental problems
5. Oral health in pregnancy
6. Fluoride varnish
7. The oral examination

Test questions

Resources for further learning

**Smiles for Life**

Home  
PowerPoints  
Videos  
Supporting Materials  
Cards and PDA Apps  
Patient Education  
Oral Health Web Links  
State Varnish Training  
Contact Us

*A national oral health curriculum*

  AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

A product of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Group on Oral Health  
Endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians

**Second Edition**

**Curriculum Overview**

Smiles for Life is a comprehensive oral health curriculum for primary care clinicians initially developed in 2005 by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Group on Oral Health. A revised and expanded second edition was released in July 2008, with further updates in July 2009. The Smiles for Life curriculum was originally designed to be implemented in Family Medicine residency training programs to allow educators to meet requirements mandating education of physicians in oral health. However, the materials can also be easily implemented in the medical school setting, and in medicine, pediatric, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner graduate education programs. Smiles for Life was recognized by STFM with its 2007 Innovative Program Award. Curricular components of the first edition were downloaded for educational use 47,394 times before it was retired in July 2006. As of July 2009 total downloads of the second edition have exceeded 40,000 copies.

The Smiles for Life Second Edition curriculum is based on seven 45 minute PowerPoint modules covering core areas of oral health; Module 1: The relationship of oral to systemic health; Module 2: Child oral health; Module 3: Adult oral health; Module 4: Acute dental problems; Module 5: Oral Health and the Pregnant Patient; Module 6: Fluoride Varnish; and Module 7: The oral examination. Each slide is fully annotated with speaker notes and relevant references.

# Family Med Residency Education

- RRC requirements
- ABFM Board Exam questions
- Survey of all residencies 2008
  - 65% report using Smiles for Life
- UMASS example – 2 year curriculum

# Professional Education

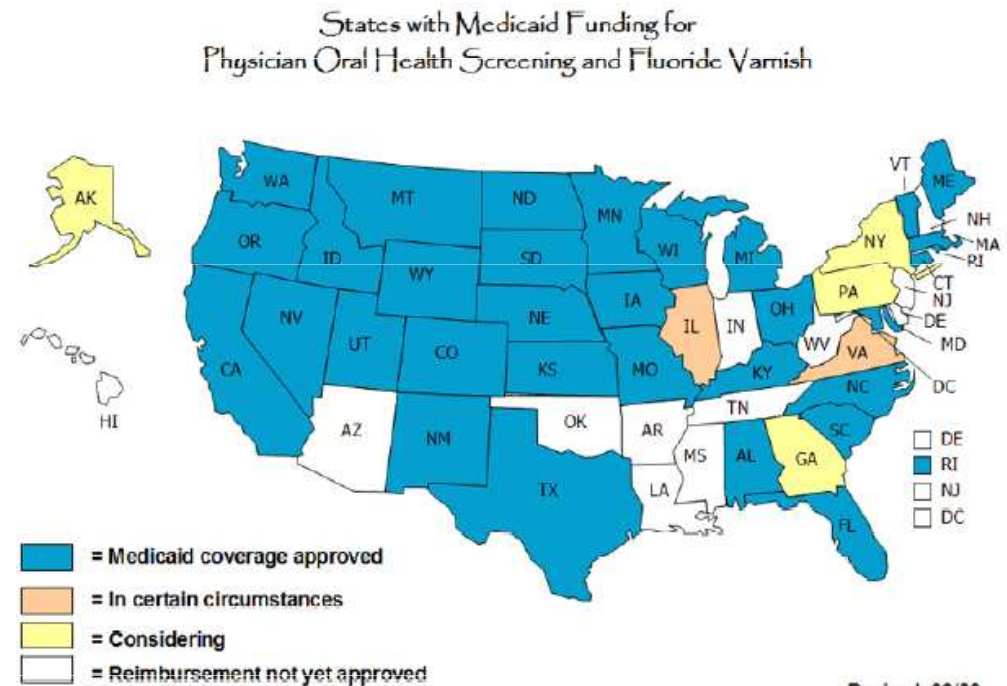
- CME
- Smiles for Life – online
- AAFP Annual meeting
- State AAFP meetings
- Articles
  - Silk H, Joseph EK. Gingivitis. In The 5-Minute Clinical Consult. Lippincott Williams and Wilkins Philadelphia, PA 2010:530-31.
  - Silk H, Romano-Clarke G. Adolescent oral health: Relevant issues and practical advice. Contemp Peds 2009;26(6):50-59.
  - Silk H, Douglass A, Douglass J, Silk L. Oral health during pregnancy. Am Fam Physician 2008;77(8):1139-1144.

# Integrated Medical Approach

- Sept 2009 – Meeting of FM, OB, Peds, IM, PA, NP to plan expansion
- ADA – CAPIR – AMA links
- AAP/AAPD
- CMOHI

# Service

- Office based – fluoride varnish programs
- Community based – schools, care mobiles, Headstart
- CMOHI



# CMOHI Partners

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Legislature
- \*Family Health Center of Worcester
- \*Great Brook Valley Health Center
- Health Care for All and Health Law Advocates
- Massachusetts Coalition for Oral Health
- Massachusetts Delta Dental Foundation
- Massachusetts Dental Society
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)
- \*Oral Health Initiative of North Central Massachusetts
- \*Quinsigamond Community College Dental Hygiene School
- Southbridge Public Schools
- Southern Worcester Neighborhood Center
- \*The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
- \*UMass Medical School's Office of Community Programs
- \*UMass Memorial Health Care
- United Way of Webster and Dudley
- \*Webster Public Schools
- Worcester City Council
- Worcester Department of Public Health
- \*Worcester District Dental Society
- \*Worcester District Hygienists' Association
- Worcester Public Schools
- South Worcester Neighborhood Center

*\* Denotes member on steering committee*

# CMOHI Methods

## Five inter-related approaches:

### 1) Providing school-based dental services for underserved children

- Increase the number of children who are screened, receive education, and have fluoride and sealant applications
- Increase number of schools and add Head Start centers

### 2) Increasing the amount of oral health care for underserved

- Recruit private dentists to increase the number and location of providers for uninsured and Mass Health patients
- Utilize Community Health Centers and a Dental Hygiene School

### 3) Advocacy for oral health policy

- Lead efforts to change local legislative, administrative, and regulatory policies and initiatives to increase the oral health services available to Mass Health members and the uninsured

# CMOHI Methods (cont.)

## 4) Establishing a dental residency program

- Establish a dental residency program using health centers as training sites to create interest in treating the underserved
- Create a pool of potential future Central Massachusetts dentists

## 5) Educating health professionals on oral health

- Increase the knowledge of oral health for medical students, residents and practitioners across specialties using Smiles for Life
- Educate on oral examinations and build confidence in referrals

# Advocacy

- AMA +
- AAFP ++
- ADA +++
- AAP +++++
- STFM +++++
- Oral Health Advocacy Taskforce
- Letters
- Op eds

# Challenges

- Med Ed – finding time in curriculum
- Service – finding time in busy practices
  
- Solution: Find champions
- Change laws, board exams, education requirements, award “stars”
- Make it easy, accessible, worth something

# Financial Issues

- Grants for curriculum changes
- Payment by Medicaid for MDs for oral health services ?enough
- A lot of dependency on volunteerism for advocacy