

**California Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program
CHDP Statewide Dental Subcommittee**



The CHDP Dental Training: Oral Health Assessment and Referral - is adapted from the ***Oral Health Handbook and Resources for CHDP Medical Providers*** - Julie Javrotsky, RDH, BS, (retired) San Francisco County, and the CHDP Dental Subcommittee.

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Dear CHDP Directors and Deputy Directors:

To improve the overall health of CHDP children, the CHDP Dental Subcommittee has developed the ***CHDP Dental Training: Oral Health Assessment and Referral***. This is an oral health web based training for CHDP county staff, as well as CHDP providers and their staff. Topics include: how to perform an acceptable dental assessment and referral, oral health risk assessment and education, preventive oral health services, and establishment of a *Dental Home*. References are included from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), First 5 California, other professional organizations and State/Federal agencies.

Why is this CHDP Dental Training useful to CHDP programs and providers?

- Historically, dental caries is the most frequently cited referral during a CHDP health assessment.
- The 2008 PM160 Desk Audit Survey revealed that 75% of dental assessments were considered “unacceptable” resulting in children not being referred to a dentist.
- More than half of California children have experienced dental caries by kindergarten, climbing to over 70% by third grade.
- Economically and socially disadvantaged children are at highest risk for dental disease.
- Only 30.5% of Medi-Cal eligible children, ages 0-20, visited a dentist in 2008.
- In addition to the obvious pain, suffering, and infection, dental caries negatively impacts the self-image and quality of life of all affected children.

How can this training be used?

All CHDP local personnel who are responsible for provider education need to familiarize and educate themselves with this training. CHDP staff should be prepared to answer questions from providers. This training is best used when CHDP programs train CHDP providers and their staff, in-person. As an alternative, counties with limited personnel should encourage and direct CHDP providers and their staff to self-train online. This training can be presented in its entirety, or in sections. Referenced educational materials and guides can be accessed and printed from the PPT or from the ***CHDP Dental Training*** home web page.

For questions regarding this training, contact Gayle Duke, Children’s Medical Services, Dental Hygienist Consultant at: gayle.duke@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

State CHDP Dental Subcommittee