

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE April 24, 2009	EFFECTIVE DATE May 1, 2009	NUMBER 27-09-02
SUBJECT Implementation of the Pediatric Dental Periodicity Schedule	 Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify dentists that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) will implement a pediatric dental periodicity schedule "Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Oral Health Care", effective May 1, 2009.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all dental providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program rendering services to MA recipients under 21 years of age, in the Fee-for-Service delivery system, including ACCESS Plus, and the managed care delivery system.

BACKGROUND:

Recently, national attention has been focused on preventive oral health which includes a referral to a dental home. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a *Guide to Children's Dental Care in Medicaid* to assist state Medicaid agencies, dental and other health care providers to manage and organize preventive oral health care for children. CMS also collaborated with state Medicaid agencies, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), to develop updated pediatric dental initiatives and to address concerns about children's access to dental services. The AAPD recommends that the establishment of a child's dental home begin no later than 12 months of age and that the dental home provide for referrals to dental specialists when appropriate.

The Department supports the AAPD's recommendations related to the pediatric dental home approach and believes the implementation of a pediatric dental periodicity schedule will support MA-eligible children in accessing timely dental preventive care services. Therefore, the Department developed a pediatric dental periodicity schedule (attached) "Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Oral Health Care", based upon the recommendations of the AAPD, but separate and unique from the Department's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and

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The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap

Treatment (EPSDT) Periodicity Schedule.

DISCUSSION:

The Department's pediatric dental periodicity schedule "Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Oral Health Care", provides preventive dental care and screening recommendations for children, infancy through 20 years of age, for the following:

- Clinical Oral Evaluation
 - Includes Anticipatory Guidance, i.e., information/counseling given to children and families to promote oral health
- Prophylaxis/Topical Fluoride Treatment
- Radiographic Assessment
- Assessment for Pit and Fissure Sealants
- Treatment of Dental Disease/Caries Risk Assessment

PROCEDURE:

Effective with dates of service on and after May 1, 2009, dental providers should use the attached pediatric dental periodicity schedule "Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Oral Health Care", which details appropriate age screening components relating to pediatric dental services, as guidelines for providing preventive pediatric oral health care.

ATTACHMENT: Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Oral Health Care