

Infant Oral Health and Fluoride Varnish

CTAAP 2011 Teleconference Program

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Continuing Medical Education Program

Thursday, December 8th

12:10PM – 1:00PM

Did you know that dental decay (caries) is 5 times more prevalent than asthma? Did you know that 34% of all children in Connecticut have had early childhood tooth decay? Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease that pediatricians and family physicians will see in children.

Oral health screening and fluoride varnish application have proven to be highly effective and studies demonstrate that they decrease caries risk by 30%. This training will offer an efficient method for identifying and treating caries that requires no more than 20 – 40 seconds in the exam room.

High risk populations have been shown to have 80% of caries cases. Connecticut offers an infant oral health program designed specifically for children who may have an increased risk for developing caries. This program focuses on children covered by HUSKY and has shown promising results in other states for decreasing the occurrence of caries. The program incorporates oral health counseling, oral health examination and fluoride varnish application.

This course will focus on assessing children for caries risk, the core messages to promote good oral health, and what to look for when performing an oral examination. The methods to be employed when applying topical fluoride varnish will also be discussed and a video demonstration is included.

Specifically, participants taking this course will be able to:

- Recognize dental decay and its sequelae;
- Understand the etiology of dental decay;
- Screen children for dental decay;
- Educate parents about how to prevent dental decay;
- Understand when and how to use fluoride varnish to prevent dental decay and;
- Know when to refer children to the dentist.

New codes have been added to the Medicaid fee schedule specifically for this program to enable physicians to bill for oral evaluation, counseling and application of fluoride varnish. **Only physicians, APRNs, and physician's assistants who have taken this course are eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for the services delivered.** This course is also intended for other medical staff, such as nurses, who under the supervision of a trained physician may perform patient education and fluoride varnish application.

Speaker: *Joanna Douglass BDS, DDS*, is an associate professor in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Connecticut. She has published extensively on the oral health of pre-school children and has developed and presented education programs both locally and nationally to educate non-dental health providers about oral health.

For a registration form or more information on this program to go to ct-aap.org, telephone 860-977-3430 or e-mail tracey.ctaap@gmail.com.

CME Credits for Physicians

- CME Credit has been applied for at Norwalk Hospital. This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essentials and Standards of the Connecticut State Medical Society through the joint sponsorship of Norwalk Hospital and the CTAAP. Norwalk Hospital is accredited by the CSMS to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Norwalk Hospital designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA CATEGORY 1 Credit™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Continuing Education Requirements for Nurses

- The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) will accept documentation of participation in the teleconference as meeting continuing education requirements toward recertification.
- The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) will accept documentation of participation in this teleconference as meeting continuing education requirements for certified nurses. The credit hours will transfer equally. CTAAP will provide verification of participation in letter form to the nurse. Nurses must submit the proper paperwork to the ANCC for approval.