



Oral Health Integration Models for Primary Care and Dental Practices

Blend Models to Meet the Needs of Your Community

1 From the First Tooth

The primary care practice provides oral health assessment, fluoride varnish, caregiver education, and referrals to a dentist as part of well-child visits for all children through age 5. When From the First Tooth is hard-wired, all providers within a practice are implementing the program as part of the standard of care for well-child visits, and the practice is using From the First Tooth data captured in the health record for continuous improvement.

2 E-Consult

Example: Primary care provider sends a dental image to an off-site dental provider to consult on appropriate treatment. Dental provider provides guidance on primary care provider initiated preventive treatments such as Silver Diamine Fluoride and whether a referral is needed for restorative care.

3 Co-located Dental Hygienist

Example: An Independent Practice Dental Hygienist offers routine on-site preventive oral health care for children who do not have a dental home, as an independent provider. The dental hygienist may subcontract with the practice but mostly operates as a separate entity from the medical team.

4 Integrated Dental Hygienist

Example: An Independent Practice Dental Hygienist is part of the primary care team, working collaboratively to address oral health as part of overall health during well-child visits and with follow-up as needed. In this fully integrated model, the hygienist is employed by the primary care practice. There is a close-knit working relationship and care coordination among the entire healthcare team.

5 Virtual Dental Home

Example: The on-site hygienists delivers all of the patient's preventative dental care in the medical home and then, utilizing telehealth, links to an off-site dentist. The dentist completes a dental examination remotely and works with the patient's care team to develop a plan for treatment that is beyond the scope of what can be managed on-site. The patient completes restorative treatment at the dental office, as needed.



Improved Health Outcomes ↑

Increased:

- Access to Care
- Comprehensive Care
- Coordinated Care
- Early Prevention of Disease
- Patient Satisfaction