Dental Checkups

CHILD AND TEEN CHECKUPS (C&TC) FACT SHEET FOR DENTAL PROFESSIONALS

Dental Professionals and C&TC

Dentists and medical providers share responsibilities but have unique roles in supporting the oral health of children birth through 20 years who are eligible for C&TC.

C&TC is Minnesota’s Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program, a federally funded program that pays for medical and dental care for children who are eligible for Medicaid. Due to their lower socio-economic status these children are at high risk for oral health problems.

Periodic examinations or screenings are delivered according to a set schedule:

- Medical providers follow the C&TC Schedule of Age Related Screening Standards (www.dhs.state.mn.us), also known as the C&TC Periodicity Schedule.
- Dental providers follow the Schedule of Age-Related Dental Standards (www.dhs.state.mn.us).

C&TC Oral Health Requirements

For Dental Professionals

The C&TC program includes dental services. When seeing a C&TC-eligible child in the dental clinic, it is important that dental providers:

- Complete an oral health history, physical examination of the oral surfaces, assessment of oral development, and caries risk assessment.
- Provide radiographic screening as indicated by clinical findings.
- Ensure application of topical fluoride and prophylaxis. Dental providers may apply fluoride varnish every six months.
- FVA is an allowable C&TC service in non-dental settings, and by non-dental health providers (www.dhs.state.mn.us), including community health workers under the supervision of a dentist.
- Provide fluoride supplementation as indicated by clinical findings: Dental Fluoride Supplements (www.ada.org).
- Assess and treat developing malocclusion.
- Assess for and place dental sealants.
- Assess and/or remove third molars.
- Give anticipatory guidance/counseling on oral hygiene, dietary habits, tobacco use, injury prevention, nonnutritive habits, speech/language development, substance use, and intraoral/perioral piercing.
- Assist with transition to adult care.

For Medical Professionals

Medical providers are required to do the following when seeing a child for routine C&TC visits in the primary healthcare setting:

- Complete a head-to-toe physical exam, including the child’s dentition and oral soft tissues.
- Give anticipatory guidance regarding oral hygiene, nutrition, and the importance of establishing a dental home.
- Provide fluoride varnish application (FVA) at each C&TC visit from the eruption of the first tooth (6-12 months of age) through age 5 years. Refer to Fluoride Varnish in the Child and Teen Checkups Setting (www.health.state.mn.us) for more information.
- Give a verbal referral for preventive care by a qualified dental professional at every C&TC visit, starting with the eruption of the first tooth or no later than 12 months of age.

Resources

Minnesota Department of Human Services

- Minnesota Health Care Programs, C&TC Section (www.dhs.state.mn.us): scroll to Covered Services – Dental Screening

Minnesota Department of Health

- Fluoride Varnish in the C&TC Setting (www.health.state.mn.us)
- Healthy Teeth. Healthy Baby (www.health.state.mn.us)
- Child and Teen Checkups (www.health.state.mn.us)

For More Information

The Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) program is administered through a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Department of Health.

For questions about this fact sheet or to obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-3760 email health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us.

Revised 10/2017