

Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care Learning Collaborative A State and Local Partnership

Integrating Oral Health Evaluation into Prenatal Care: Considerations and Examples

Overview

The oral health evaluation is composed of subjective and objective findings based on completion of an oral health history, a risk assessment, and a clinical oral screening. Competencies for primary care providers include identifying and prioritizing strategies to prevent or mitigate risk impact for oral and systemic diseases and stratifying interventions in accordance with the evaluation findings.¹

This document presents key considerations for integrating oral health evaluation into prenatal care. It also includes summaries of how prenatal clinics integrate oral health evaluation and links to examples from the Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care Learning Collaborative: A State and Local Partnership (Integration LC) project.

Completing an Oral Health Evaluation

Using a systematic approach, primary care providers should check the face and lips, gingiva, teeth, soft and hard palate, lateral borders and undersurface of the tongue, posterior pharynx, and floor of the mouth. They should also palpate the neck, temporomandibular joint, and floor of the mouth.²

Findings from the oral health evaluation should be documented in the patient's electronic medical record (EMR) and used in combination with oral health risk assessment findings to determine the need for oral health preventive interventions, education, and referral to a dental provider.

¹ Health Resources and Services Administration. 2014. Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice. Rockville, MD: Health Resources and Services Administration.

² Clark M, ed. 2018–2022. Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum (4th ed.). Leawood, KS: Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.

Integrating Oral Health Evaluation into the Electronic Medical Record

Oral health evaluation findings should be documented in an EMR template with other obstetric (OB) findings. This portion of the record may be called the prenatal flow sheet, OB template, or prenatal detail. An oral health evaluation template may need to be created or imported from another part of the EMR, such as the mouth physical exam or children's oral health evaluation, to the area in the EMR where OB findings are documented.

It is important to ensure that the oral health evaluation findings are documented in a way that can be retrieved from the EMR by generating a report. Examples include:

- Using structured fields in the prenatal flow sheet. When the structured field is checked for each clinical finding question, then the final field box defaults to show that an evaluation was completed. Data from that field can then be exported into a report.
- Using dot phrases in the patient note. A dot phrase is a preformed block of text that is inserted into the patient note using a keyboard shortcut that is preceded by a period (dot). Reports can be generated from the template note.
- Using a "dummy" code in the patient record. A "dummy" code is used for internal tracking purposes instead of for billing. An alphanumeric code is assigned that is either self-explanatory or explained in the description field. Care should be taken to avoid using an actual CPT or ICD-10 code.

Documentation Examples (see <u>Appendix</u> 1. Examples of Integrating the Oral Health Evaluation into the Electronic Medical Record)

From the Integration LC

- Document using dot phrases in the patient record (Epic, La Clinica de la Raza, Concord, CA)
- Document completion of evaluation into structured fields in the prenatal flow sheet (eClinicalWorks, Albany Area Primary Care, Albany, GA)
- Document into structured fields in the dental template in the physical exam (Athena, PCC Community Wellness, Chicago, IL)
- Use a paper form that is scanned into the patient record (AthenaOne, Choptank Community Health, Cambridge, MD)
- Use a paper form to document using the "dental urgency" score listed at the bottom of the paper oral health risk assessment (NextGen, G.A. Carmichael, Canton, MS)
- Document completion of evaluation in the dental care tab in the initial OB template (NextGen, Lorain County Health and Dentistry, Lorain, OH)
- Document in the mouth physical exam template embedded into the prenatal detail portion of the record (NextGen, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Cranston, RI)

- Document into structured fields in the physical exam portion of the patient record (Open EMR, Community Health Network, Houston, TX)
- Use a paper form for prenatal oral health screening, risk assessment, and primary care provider assessment (oral health evaluation with indications for referral urgency). (AthenaOne, New River Health Association, Scarbro, WV)

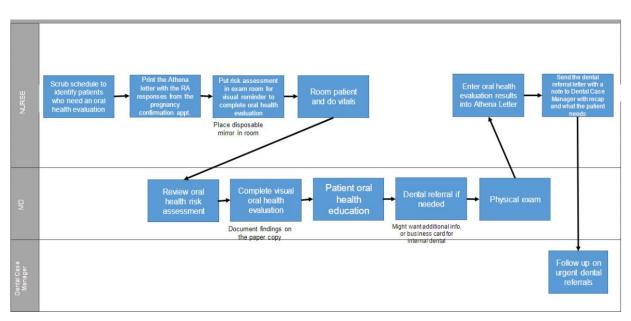
Integrating Oral Health Evaluation into the Prenatal Care Workflow

During the initial prenatal intake appointment, when the prenatal provider performs the initial physical examination, may be the best time to conduct the oral health evaluation. The oral health risk assessment and the oral health evaluation results can be used to identify the need for a dental referral. Completing the oral health evaluation early in the patient's pregnancy allows the most time for oral health care to be completed, if needed.

All Integration LC prenatal clinics are integrating the oral health evaluation during the initial prenatal intake appointment.

"I do mine with the prenatal intake, which is something that's made it really manageable. I'm literally checking their thyroid and cervical lymph nodes and so it [their mouth] is just right there. I look in the mouth and do my oral exam."

> Christina Drostin, M.D. Choptank Community Health, Integration LC clinic



Sample Workflow for Initial Prenatal Intake Appointment

Strategies to Increase Primary Care Provider Confidence in Completing an Oral Health Evaluation

Interprofessional Training

Dental providers and team members are the ideal trainers for the prenatal care team. Staff meetings are good opportunities to utilize dental providers and team members to provide handson training and answer questions that arise, help prenatal providers and team members learn what to look for, and reinforce dental referral processes.

Oral Health Evaluation Guide

An oral health evaluation guide is a tool for prenatal providers to see photos of common oral health conditions, along with short descriptions. The guide can be used as a part of interprofessional training. It can be laminated and placed in exam rooms, displayed in staff break rooms, and posted to internal shared document sites.

Oral Health Evaluation Guides

- Oral Health Screening Guide, Albany Area Primary Care, Albany, GA
- <u>Prenatal Oral Health Screening Guide</u>, American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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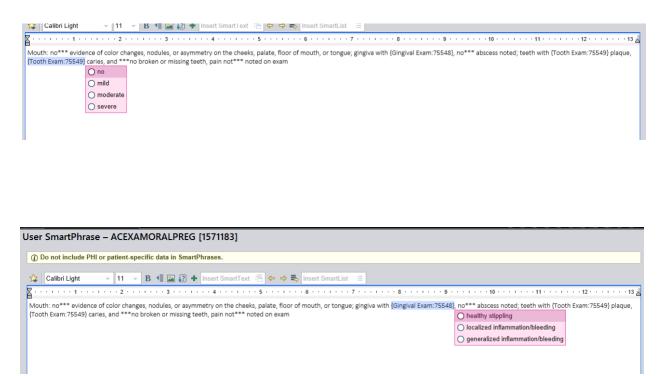
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National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center Georgetown University E-mail: <u>OHRCinfo@georgetown.edu</u>

La Clinica de la Raza, Concord, California

The prenatal provider uses dot phrases to document oral health evaluation findings in the patient note. Tracking is done through Tableau, which is a lay-over on Epic and extracts data in certain fields.



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	Do you currently have a dentist? {Yes / No}
	Have you had your teeth cleaned in the last 12 months? {Yes / No}
	Would you like to be referred to our La Clinica Dental Team? {Yes / No} ***If no, ask: "Can we share some information with you about the importance of oral health in pregnancy?" If yes, read script.***
	If do not have a dentist or want to see a dentist, Liz to notify provider to continue the conversation about link between oral care and pregnancy.
	Do you have any tooth/mouth pain, bleeding gums, or other problems in your mouth? {Yes / No}
	If have pain, Liz to do urgent referral and notify provider to be able to do a physical exam or could co-visit if in-person?
	Do you have any questions or concerns about oral health care or getting oral health care while you are pregnant? {Yes / No}

Albany Area Primary Health Care, Albany, Georgia

The prenatal provider conducts the oral health evaluation guided by the clinical findings and services items below. The prenatal flow sheet within eClinicalWorks was modified to allow the physical exam page to show "Oral Exam Completed" [oral health evaluation] and a drop-down menu with yes/no choices. This field is trackable for reporting.

Clinical Findings	Yes	No
Obvious decay/broken teeth		
White spot lesions		
Inflamed/bleeding gums		
Visible plaque/calculus (tartar)		

Services	Yes	No
Oral health education		
Fluoride varnish		
Follow-up about whether woman has seen a dentist (if woman was given a dental referral at intake visit)		
Dental referral (if woman has not gotten a dental referral)		

Name	Value	Remarks	Name
Date	mm/dd/yyyy		Height
BP	120/80	~	Weight
Pre-OB weight			General
Psychiatric	Mood/Affect appr	~	HEENT
Fundi	Normal	~	Teeth
Thyroid		~ •	Breasts
Respiratory		~	Cardiovascular
Abdomen	Not examined	~	Extremities
Skin		~	Lymph Nodes
External genitalia		~	Vagina
Uterus Size		~	Adnexa
Rectum		~	Diagonal Conjugate
Diagonal Conjugate (cm)		~	Spines
Sacrum		~	Pubic arch
Gynecoid pelvic type	~~	×	Trimester of first visit i NOT with grantee
Oral Exam Completed		~	
	Yes		
	No		

PCC Community Wellness Center, Chicago, Illinois

The prenatal provider documents the findings from the oral health evaluation in the dental portion of the physical exam template in Athena. A dental section was added to the notes section of the pregnancy problem list section in the OB Episode. Providers check when each domain has been completed to make it easily accessible for manual chart review.

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Auscultation: breath sounds normal, good air movement, CTA except as noted								

Choptank Community Health System, Cambridge, Maryland

The oral health evaluation is printed and placed in the exam room with the patient. The prenatal provider documents findings from the oral health evaluation conducted during the physical exam. A member of the prenatal care team scans the document into the Athena EMR.

Clinical Findings

- 1. Cavitated or white spot lesions
 - __yes 1- 2 teeth __yes 3+ teeth

__ no

- description:
- 2. Inflamed/bleeding gums
 - ___ yes

__ no

description:

- 3. Visible dental plaque
 - __ yes
 - __ no
 - description:
- 4. Erosion (from morning sickness)
 - __ yes
 - __ no
 - description:
- 5. Other lesions or problems noted description:

G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center, Canton, Mississippi

The prenatal provider completes the printed oral health risk assessment which includes a dental urgency score listed at the bottom of the page. If the dental urgency score is listed, this indicates that the oral health risk assessment was completed.

6	G.A. CARMICHAEL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER The You Family : Reads to Cas Reads	
YorN	Do you currently have a dentist? If oo, please list dentist:	
'Y or N	Have you had a dental exam and cleaning within the past 12 months? If 50, when:	
Y or N	Do you have swoten or bleeding gums, a toothache (pain), problems eating or chewing lood, or other problems in your mouth?	
Y or N	Do you have sugary foods and drinks between meahs? (Including julce, soda, and energy drinks)	
YorN	Do you brush your teeth with fluoridated toothpaste?	
Y or N	Do you drink water from the tap/faucet?	
YorN	Since becoming pregnant, have you been vomiting? If so, how often	
YorN	Have you received prenetal care? If not, do you need help making an appointment for pronatal care?	
Please lid	any questions or concerns about getting cosl healthcare while you're pregnant.	
	2 - Even and readout a mental sector and descript - Trimmaler 2	
	GA CARMICHAEL STAFF ONLY	* Please circle regarding patient:
#'s of Yes:	Dental Urgency - Please circle: 1 = Routine dental checkup (exam and cleaning)	 Trimester 1 Trimester 2
#'s of No:	2 = Some dental treatment is needed (cavities/etc) 3 = Pain, swelling, infection (appt ASAP)	• Trimester 3
Dental referral given? Yes or	No	
Medical/Dental Signature:		

Lorain County Health and Dentistry, Lorain, Ohio

The prenatal provider completes the oral health evaluation and documents findings in the dental care tab portion of the OB template within NextGen. The documentation prompts the billing "dummy" code DOBG for tracking.

Specialty v Obstetrics		OB Prenatal - Initial	Contagion Risk		OTOB () HTN ()
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Reason for Visit Introduction: This 46 year old female.	No Concer Last Visit: 05 Concerns: 61 Caires: 6 b Erosion: 6 b Disease: 6 b	r/11/2022 eeding gums 40 C Yes 40 C Yes		HPIs and ROS entered in this	encounter
routine prenatal postpartum check abdominal pain blood pressure check breast concerns constipation depression fever headache incision check nausea/vomiting	Statistics of the second	te applied: C No C Judy Cilena, RN [12/14/2022] OK Cano			

This documentation automatically prompts the billing codes below: (DOBG is a dummy code we created for tracking)

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12/14/2022	DOBG	Oral Health Assessment OB	1.00		
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Comprehensive Community Action Program, Cranston, Rhode Island

The Mouth-Physical Exam template in NextGen was moved from the physical exam field to the prenatal detail to make it convenient for the prenatal provider to use. The prenatal provider documents the findings from the oral health evaluation. If the condition is normal, the provider checks the box; if the condition is not normal, the provider can enter comments or make a selection from the drop-down list.

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		- b	lack, fissure(s), thrush	. Buccal mucosa - I	bluish gray macules	. Salivary	
			nds - parotid swelling	~~~~~			
		5.2	*******	,			

Community Health Network, Houston, Texas

The prenatal provider completes the oral health evaluation and documents the findings in the physical exam portion of the patient record in OpenEMR. Each prompt has a yes/no answer option.

			Clinical Findings
			Questionaire
1:	select	~	Healthy teeth?
2:	- select	~	White spots or visible decalcifications in the past 12 months?
3:	select	~	Obvious decay?
4:	select	~	Restorations (fillings) present?
5:	select	~	Visible plaque accumulation?
6:	select	~	Gingivitis (swollen/bleeding gums)?
7:	select	~	Dental pain?
8:	select	~	Broken teeth?
9:	select	~	Facial swelling?
10:	select	~	Drooling?
11:	select	~	Fever?

New River Health Association, Scarbro, West Virginia

The prenatal provider completes the printed oral health risk assessment and oral health evaluation with indications for referral urgency (e.g., dental pain, abscess, swelling, fever). The findings and referral are documented in the oral health tab of Athena.

	Patient:		
New	DOB: Phone:		
River	Address:		
HEALTH	Insurance:		
304.469.2905			
Estimated Date of Delivery/	irrenter at intake: 34 24 34 Gestation at intake:	works	
Section A: Prenatal Oral Health Screeni			
	Last dental visit: <6 menthsyear(s)	10/01	
	er toothpaste professional applications supplements		
	Flose? Current Smoker? Yes	No	
let # Joans of Nich sugar drinks are day?	Snecks between meals?	Yes No	
Große all that apply: Other concerns:			
aw dicking or popping periodental (gun) di	sease screpficsion/humps in mouth conskivity upo	e biting	
thronic had breath a mailbuilty to sweets	or hot blooding gums grinding booth red teeth food collection between teeth dry mouth		
Guidance Provided: 🛛 Oral Health/Prenatal Educa	tion 📋 Nutritional Counseling 📄 Telsecor Cossetion Counse	iral .	
Known Patient Allergies and Presautions:			
Current Medications:			
 UNGENT REFERENCE due to dental pain, absccss, a 	walling, fever		
 Medication Prescribed Today			
	5. 🖸 Erica Stanley, APIN, FNP-BC 🔲 Brittery Mena	L FND.C	
Signature:	Signature //asessment Date:		
	P provi e processimon oave		
Referred To	Phone: Fex:		
Section B: Dental Provider Assessment	Date of Exam		
Diagnosis/Treatment Plan:	🖸 Dental George 🔲 Flace	de Varnish	
No1App:			
Guidance Provided:	Oral Health/Prenatal Education	utritional Counseling 1	Tobacco Cessation Counseling
Signature			5
Known Patient Allergie	s and Precautions:		
Current Medications:			
current medications:			
	due to dental pain, abscess, swelling, feve		
 Medication Prescrib 	ed Today		
 Dental Cleaning with 	h weeks		
NRHA OB Provider:	🗆 Whitney Boggs, M.D. 🛛 Er	ca Stanley, APRN, FNP-I	BC 🔲 Brittney Menel, FNP-C
Signature		Signature /Ass	essment Date:
/ /		Signature / Asa	
Referred To:		Phone:	Fax:
neren ev rer			1975