

Into The Mouths of Babes

NC Dental Screening & Varnish Project



Fall 2008

Early Childhood Oral Health Collaborative (ECOHC)

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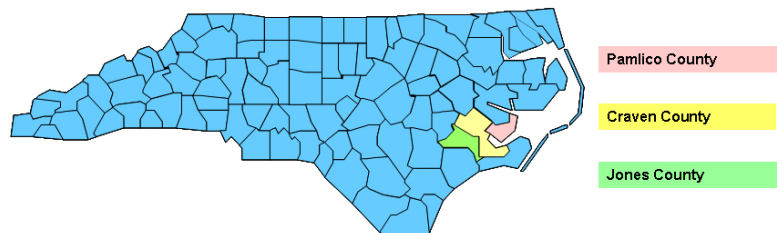
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Exciting Changes in Early Childhood Oral Health Initiatives

The IMB Advisory Committee membership has continued to expand over the past several years as efforts to prevent early childhood caries have increased in North Carolina! It is exciting to report that the committee is now called the Early Childhood Oral Health Collaborative, or ECOHC, and incorporates several other projects underway in our state. One of those projects, *Carolina Dental Home* (CDH), is a pilot in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico Counties where medical providers are referring very young high risk Medicaid covered children to a dental home

before they develop cavities. In addition, the UNC School of Public Health has just received a NIH grant to Zero Out Early Childhood Caries (ZOE) in Early Head Start Programs.

We are pleased to welcome new members to ECOHC, including Jennie Fisher and Greg Griggs of the NC Academy of Family Physicians, Khari Garvin from the Department of Public Instruction, Deborah Nelson from the Division of Public Health, Florence Siman from El Pueblo, and Dr. Tim Wright from the UNC School of Dentistry.



Carolina Dental Home Pilot Site

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**IMB Advisory Committee
Continues to Recommend
Duraphat Fluoride Varnish**

**Increase in Medicaid
Fluoride Varnish
Code D1206**

One of the most common questions asked of IMB staff about fluoride varnish is 'Why does the IMB program recommend *Duraphat*?' It is a very good question and the recommendation is based on science. *Duraphat* has many published clinical trials showing effectiveness. It has been used in Europe, Scandinavia, and Canada since the 1960's and there are over 200 studies documented in the literature. If you would like more information about *Duraphat*, contact Kelly Close, IMB project coordinator at 919-707-5485 or Kelly.Close@ncmail.net

Effective with date of service September 1, 2008, the reimbursement rate for the application of topical fluoride varnish (procedure code D1206) was increased to \$16.80. **No adjustments will be accepted from providers for this rate change.** Providers are reminded to bill their usual and customary charges rather than the Medicaid rate.

For coverage criteria and additional billing guidelines, please refer to [Clinical Coverage Policy 1A-23, Physician Fluoride Varnish Services.](#)

