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Aloha Healthcare Providers,

Oral health is integral to overall health. Unfortunately, far too many individuals in the State of Hawai'i are not able to access the oral health care they need and deserve. The consequences of poor oral health are far-reaching including the negative oral and overall health effects as well as the unnecessary costs of emergency room visits for preventable oral health conditions.

The integration of oral health into primary care practice is one substantial and economical way to reduce the poor oral health outcomes and improve overall health and quality of life for our island residents. Young children are seen by primary care providers more often than oral health professionals, with an average of 12 recommended pediatric well-child visits conducted in the first 36 months and yearly between 3 until 21 years of age. Each primary care visit is an opportunity to assess oral health status, provide oral health education, connect families to a dental home and when appropriate, apply fluoride varnish.

The following oral health toolkit was developed through a collaboration between the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division, and the UH Mānoa Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing. Included in this toolkit, you will find the following items to help you to effectively integrate oral health into your practice.

Items For Primary Care Providers:

- Steps to Applying Fluoride Varnish (Video and Handout)
  - Visual examples of early childhood caries
  - Template: Fluoride Varnish Progress Notes

Items For Families:

- Fluoride Varnish Factsheet

For more information and resources on improving oral health outcomes, please contact me at [mattheus@hawaii.edu](mailto:mattheus@hawaii.edu).

Mahalo,

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