



Prenatal Oral Health Guidelines for Dental Providers

Pregnancy provides an opportunity to stabilize periodontal status; break the chain of *s. mutans* transmission; and introduce risk reduction & self management strategies for two life cycles
Dental diseases must be managed as a chronic disease.

Key Guidelines

Pregnancy by itself is not a reason to defer routine dental care and necessary treatment for oral health problems.

First trimester diagnosis and treatment, including needed dental x-rays, can be undertaken safely to diagnose disease processes that need immediate treatment.

Needed treatment can be provided throughout the remainder of the pregnancy; however, the time period between the 14th and 20th week is ideal.

Anticipatory Guidance

Oral Health Anticipatory guidance

- ✓ Important for you and baby
- ✓ Bacteria is transmissible
- ✓ There are simple things you can do to keep your family healthy

Self management goals

Refer to dental home

Recommended Action

Plan *definitive treatment* based on customary oral health considerations including:

- ✓ chief complaint and medical history
- ✓ history of tobacco, alcohol and other substance use
- ✓ clinical evaluation
- ✓ radiographs when needed

Develop and discuss a comprehensive treatment plan that includes preventive, restorative and maintenance care.

Provide emergency care at any time during pregnancy as indicated by oral condition.

Provide dental prophylaxis and treatment during pregnancy, preferably during early second trimester but definitely prior to delivery.