Dental Health

Policy

Head Start children are required to have a current dental examination by a dentist or a within 30 days of enrollment, and are required on an annual basis thereafter. An examination received prior to enrollment must not be more than one year old.

Children enrolled in Early Head Start, according to the CHDP Periodicity Schedule, are required to receive a dental assessment at the time of each well baby check. In addition, all EHS children must receive preventive dental services in the form of Child Dental Care pamphlets and supplemental information at the time of enrollment, and throughout enrollment in Early Head Start.

_Rationale:_ Head Start Performance Standard CFR 45 Section 1304.20(c) (5), Periodicity schedule for Health assessment requirement by age group.
Dental Health

Procedure

Procedure:

1. Family Services Workers (FSWs), Home Visitors (HV), and EHS Educators will inform the parent/guardian of Head Start dental requirements at enrollment and, if needed, will link the parent/guardian to dental care resources. If after 90 days from the child’s enrollment date staff are unable to obtain the enrollment dental examination, the child must be referred to SOP Health/Nutrition Services Unit. Staff must include all dates they have spoken/contacted the parent regarding the missing dental examination with the referral.

2. The FSW/HV/EHS Educators will discuss with the parent/guardian the importance of participating in their child’s dental care, including making appointments, asking questions, discussing preventive measures and completing follow up care.

3. The FSW/HV/EHS Educator will complete a Sacramento Covered referral form for every child who does not have a dental home. **NOTE:** Please refer to the “Obtaining a Medica/Dental Home” policy and procedure.

4. Head Start funds may be used for professional dental services when no other source of funding is available. When Head Start funds are used for such services, all efforts to access other available sources of funding must be made available.

5. It is the responsibility of the FSW/HV/EHS Educator to follow up on and document in the child’s file all care recommended by the child’s dentist. If a parent/guardian refuses to obtain dental care for their child, the FSW/HV/EHS Educator must complete a referral (on an Internal Request for Follow-up Services form) and submit it to SOP Health/Nutrition Services.

   a. Children with non-urgent dental exams should begin the treatment process within two months of the failed exam date. If the parent cannot comply with this timeline, the referral process should begin.

   b. Children with urgent dental exams should begin the treatment process within one month of the failed exam date. If the parent cannot comply with this timeline, the referral process should begin. **NOTE:** Urgent care is defined as pain, deep cavities, abscess, broken tooth or exposed root.