

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

All prekindergarten, school-age children, and youth should have access to a medical and dental home for preventive, therapeutic and restorative medical/dental care.

DEFINITIONS:

The American Academy of Pediatrics describes the medical home as a model of delivering primary care that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective ([AAP, healthychildren.org, 2015](http://AAP.healthychildren.org)) .

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentists defines the **dental home** as the ongoing relationship between the **dentist** and the patient, inclusive of all aspects of oral health care delivered in a comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered way.

AUTHORIZATION/LEGAL REFERENCE:

EPSDT & Title V Collaboration to Improve Child Health

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment.html>

Medicaid Administrative Claiming

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/financing-and-reimbursement/medicaid-administrative-claiming.html>

16 V.S.A. § 165 (2014) Education Quality Standards

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/16/003>

18 V.S.A. § 1124 (2015) Access to and reporting of immunization records

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/18/021>

REQUIRED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES:

1. Complete and submit by January 1st each school year, all information requested for the Vermont School Nurse Report. The data will be aggregated by SU/SD, school building, and grade.
2. Complete and submit by January 1st each school year, aggregated data on the immunization status of all students enrolled in the school.

SUGGESTED SCHOOL NURSE/ASSOCIATE SCHOOL NURSE ROLES—PROMOTING ACCESS TO CARE:

- Seek out children eligible for Medicaid and inform them and their parents or guardians about the benefits of prevention, and of the health services and assistance available to them
- Assure the availability of health services
- Network with the Vermont Department of Health, Office of Local Health district office staff (i.e. the School Liaison) to optimize available health promotion and disease prevention resources
- Promote participation in Vermont Department of Health's Tooth Tutor program
- Assess children's health needs periodically and as concerns arise

- Help children and their families use health care resources effectively and efficiently
- Monitor health status regularly and assure that health problems found are diagnosed and treated early, that needed services are provided in a timely and efficient manner, and that duplicative and unnecessary services are avoided as recommended by [American Academy of Pediatrics/ American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry/ EPSDT](#), in order to promote the best possible outcomes.
- Provide information to families about Vermont Health Connect, Medicaid and Dr. Dinosaur programs and their benefits: <https://portal.healthconnect.vermont.gov/VTHBELand/welcome.action>
 - Vermont Health Connect - Find In-Person Help: <http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/find>.
 - Provide assistance to uninsured families in determining their eligibility for participation in Vermont's Medicaid program
 - Vermont's Medicaid Program may include transportation to and from appointments that occur during the school day: <http://ovha.vermont.gov/for-consumers/beneficiary-non-emergency-medical-tranportation>
- Encourage parents to schedule annually, a comprehensive well care visit (also known as health supervision visit, well exam, check-up, or physical), and at least annually, a dental exam for their children. This is recommended by AAP's Bright Futures Guidelines. Bright Futures is also Vermont's EPSDT Periodicity Schedule.
- To ensure sports participation physical evaluations, a sports clearance review can be completed during (or close to), and not in place of, a comprehensive annual well care visit.
 - Promote Sports Clearance Forms : <http://healthvermont.gov/local/school/SchoolHealth-SportsClearance.aspx>
 - Collaborate with coaches, athletic directors, and principals to use the recommended Vermont Department of Health Well Exam – Sports Participation Clearance Form, which indicates that sports clearance should be completed as part of a comprehensive annual well care visit.
 - Promote confidentiality of health information by using the Sport Clearance Forms
- Partner with other school nurses in the district to increase the rate of annual adolescent well care visits received by public school students (in grades 5 through 12), as described in the American Academy of Pediatrics', *Bright Futures- Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents* (See SAMPLE PROCEDURERS -Strategies below)
- All referrals and follow up actions as well as physical and dental information should be documented and filed in student's health record.

RESOURCES:

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry - <http://www.aapd.org/>

- Policy on the Dental Home (2015) - http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_DentalHome.pdf
- Medical Home: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/health-management/Pages/A-Medical-Home-Where-Everybody-Knows-Your-Name.aspx>

Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents, 2008. 3rd Edition, American Academy of Pediatrics. <https://brightfutures.aap.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Children's Dental Care Guide in Medicaid

<http://www.aapd.org/assets/1/7/Periodicity-DentalGuide.pdf>

National Center of Medical Home Initiatives - <http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/>

Periodicity Schedule: *Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care*: Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics. Copyright © 2015 by the American Academy of Pediatrics, updated 5/2015.

https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/Periodicity/Periodicity%20Schedule_FINAL.pdf

Vermont Dental Society - - <http://www.vsds.org/>

Vermont Agency of Education – LICENSING OF EDUCATORS AND THE PREPARATION OF EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS (5000) 5440-65 School Nurse Revised (3/20/13)

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Rule-5440_Supplement_A_Licensing_Endorsements.pdf#page=118

Vermont Department of Health - <http://healthvermont.gov/>

Office of Oral Health <http://healthvermont.gov/family/dental/services.aspx>

Tooth Tutor Program <http://healthvermont.gov/family/dental/tooth-tutor.aspx>

Periodicity Schedule for Dental Supervision:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/local/school/documents/DentalPeriodicity-FinalDraft-7-29-08.xls>

Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child – Oral Health Toolkit

<http://www.astdd.org/school-and-adolescent-oral-health-committee/>

SAMPLE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND FORMS**To increase adolescent well care visits:**

Partner with other school nurses and stakeholders in the district to increase the rate of annual adolescent well care visits and dental care received by public school students (in grades 5 through 12), as described in the American Academy of Pediatrics', *Bright Futures- Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents* (See Strategies below)

Providing Information:

- Clarify the difference between annual well care visits and other health care visits, including sick visits, sports clearance, or other visits.
- Include information about *Bright Futures* guidelines and annual well care visits along with the school's annual health update form for the upcoming school year, and for newly enrolled students.
- Use social media, including the school website, to provide information about annual well care visits.

Educate Staff and Administrators:

- Provide information and education about the benefits of annual well care visits and dental care visits, and share with school administrators, teachers, coaches, guidance counselors, and other support staff.
- Work with coaches and principals to use the recommended Vermont Department of Health *Well Exam – Sports Participation Clearance Form*, which requires a comprehensive *Bright Futures* well care visit.

Data Collection:

- Use standardized language provided by the Vermont Department of Health for collecting information about annual well care visits and dental visits, as reported on the annual *Vermont School Nurse Report*.
- Develop and maintain a tracking system for all students indicating receipt of annual well care visits.
- Review the tracking system, at least annually, to identify students who do not have a current annual well care visit documented, and provide notification and recommendation to students and families.
- Use your Electronic Health Record to identify students missing annual well care visits for targeted outreach.

Community Outreach:

- Communicate and collaborate with local primary care providers (including dental care providers) about your school's work toward increasing annual well care and dental care visit rates for adolescents. (Strategies. Vermont Department of Health, 2015)