

Integrating Oral Health Services into your Practice

Overview of FTFT Technical Assistance

FTFT staff are available to work with each practice to create a customized implementation plan that will ensure this program can be fully integrated into practice operations. Below is a proposed process that has been successful with many practices across Maine.

Introduction Meeting

Initially, FTFT team members will meet with identified members of the interested practice team, which could include the practice manager, clinical support staff, and one or more providers. During this meeting, FTFT will offer more information and details about the program as well as answer questions and respond to concerns. **Time commitment: 30 minutes**

Practice Readiness and Process Mapping

At the next meeting, FTFT will work with as many practice staff as possible to fill out the “Implementation Worksheet” and clarify any questions. A FTFT staff member may facilitate a process mapping exercise with the team to understand current workflows. For example, fluoride varnish can be applied by the medical provider during the well-child exam, or this can be delegated to a nurse or medical assistant to perform at the same time as vaccinations. **Time Commitment: 1 hour**

Staff Training

FTFT provides training to practices using the Smiles for Life: National Oral Health Curriculum. This module covers:

- The etiology of early childhood decay
- Assessment of a child’s risk of developing early childhood decay
- Benefits and indications for fluoride varnish
- Application of fluoride varnish
- Family education on oral health
- Referral to a dental home

Time Commitment: 1 hour

Pilot Week and Implementation

Once a workflow is established, parent/caregiver education is in place, the medical records and billing system are prepared, and all necessary staff have received an appropriate level of training for their role in delivering FTFT, the practice will agree on a go-live date. In advance of implementation, FTFT will supply the practice with: From the First Tooth Toolkit, educational materials for parents/caregivers, Promotional materials for the practice (welcome kit), and dental Referral list.

If desired by the practice, FTFT can help develop a system for tracking oral health utilization data.

Follow-Up

The FTFT technical assistance lead will follow up with the practice approximately two weeks post-implementation to see whether there are any questions or unresolved problems and to continue to monitor the practice’s progress toward full implementation through bi-annual check-ins. Keep an eye out for our check-in email!