

Technical Assistance & Quality Improvement Services Now Available – From the First Tooth™

From the First Tooth™ (FTFT) is now offering technical assistance and quality improvement services to pediatric and family medicine practices interested in increasing the number of children receiving preventive dental care as part of primary care. Recently, FTFT has increased its focus on quality improvement by collaborating with the MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization (MHACO) and with MaineGeneral Health and EMHS in order to offer dedicated support to practices.

In addition to helping practices incorporate preventive dental care into primary care, now pediatric practices support specialists and other staff members are assisting practice managers, providers and/or staff upon request. Specific assistance in the following areas is available:

- Development and distribution data reports from electronic health records
- On-site technical assistance in the area of work flow and processes
- Electronic Health Record Integration
- Maintenance of Certification
- Meaningful Use
- Quality Metrics
- Staff Competencies

Recently, FTFT staff developed and distributed transparent data summary reports from an EHR in order to assist a group of practices in monitoring trends in fluoride varnish applications and oral evaluations from one month to the next. After reviewing the data, one of the physicians from a Maine Medical Partners practice requested that FTFT staff visit the practice to meet with each provider/medical assistant dyad to review workflow and answer questions in order to unify workflows.

The results:

"The From the First Tooth team's observation of our practice resulted in a tremendous boom in our effectiveness with applying fluoride varnish and our practice statistics. We were able to see inconsistencies within our practice that none of us could see from each of our separate exam rooms. The visit also resulted in corrections in data errors that allowed our numbers to represent our true performance. Similar site visits should occur at other practices."

- Jonathan Fanburg, MD, MPH, Maine Medical Partners

From the Firth Tooth™ (FTFT), an initiative led by MaineHealth with partnerships with MaineGeneral Health and EMHS, has been integrating early pediatric oral health into primary care practices across Maine. 190 medical practices servicing children have been recruited, received training and technical assistance. Recently, FTFT has increased its focus on quality improvement.

To request technical assistance or for more information, contact Susan Cote, Program Manager of From the First Tooth at 207.662.6309 or cotes4@mainehealth.org