Prioritizing oral health integration

Clinical strategic priority

Oral health is a component of overall health; however, the care delivery models have traditionally separated health care disciplines. CareOregon, capitalizing on our unique position as the state’s largest Medicaid managed health plan, is leading the way on changing that.

CareOregon and CareOregon Dental are partnering with co-located Federally Qualified Health Centers to break down silos, supporting the clinics to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration.

Benefits of oral health engagement in priority populations:

- Maternity: Can lead to improved health outcomes and is upstream approach to reduced early childhood caries.
- 0 to 5-year-olds: Decreases early childhood caries rates, supports kindergarten readiness and social determinants of health (SDOH). Prevents against 30% cycle of poor oral health, school absence, low graduation rates and poverty.

Aim statement

We created frameworks for oral health integration within primary care and behavioral health to:

- Improve overall health outcomes
- Increase dental utilization
- Address social determinants of health
- Promote oral health integration and the health home model
- Support spreading the new tools and learnings across the network

Strategizing integration

Oral Health Integration Projects Learning Collaborative

CareOregon Dental convenes the OHIP Learning Collaborative using core principles of “The Breakthrough Series: Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s (IHI) Collaborative Model for Achieving Breakthrough Improvements.”

Goals of the Oral Health Integration Projects Learning Collaborative:

- Spread project initiatives
- Support the sharing of task, data, lessons learned, barriers and solutions
- Model interdisciplinary clinical and operational leadership
- Improve patient experiences
- Enhance collaboration to the electronic health record
- Improve efficiencies
- Leverage health care transformation

In an integration metric to increase oral health interventions for 0 to 5-year-olds is included in our top 10 health plan goals as a success indicator for this key pillar.

CareOregon Dental is focused on decreasing the incidence of dental caries in Oregon children.

- Dental caries is a preventable and transmissible disease.
- It is the most common chronic childhood disease for children 6-11 years old and adolescents 12-19 years old.

Key principles

- Multidisciplinary to include primary care and/or behavioral health
- Health home model
- Patient-centered, team-based care
- Metro-driven
- 2-phase project timelines and metrics
- Cross-disciplinary leadership talent
- Collaborative partner participation and shared learning

Convening integration partners

Oral Health Integration Projects (OHIP) Learning Collaborative

CareOregon Dental convened the OHIP Learning Collaborative utilizing a grant award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s (IHI) Collaborative Model for Achieving Breakthrough Improvements.”

Results in progress

The OHIP Learning Collaborative was built to provide several desired outcomes:

- Improved efficiencies
- Improved patient experiences
- Sharing of best practices
- A self-propelling spirit of collaboration

We focus on commonalities that can be transferred across the region Project sustainability is key for improving health outcomes in our community, and we strive to ensure projects are fully implemented.

Before

New model

Dental needs met: integrated oral health care in multiple settings

Oral Health Integration Projects faculty and their roles

Oral Health Integration Projects faculty and their roles:

- Dental needs met
- Integrated oral health care in multiple settings

FOOTNOTES

1. Alyssa Franzen, DMD, Chief Dental Officer, CareOregon.


6. This is an example of a trend analysis using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) which is a long-term study conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The NHANES provides a scientifically rigorous approach for measuring the health and nutritional status of the civilian non-institutionalized population of the United States. The survey design allows for the generation of estimates on key health indicators that are of importance to the population. The survey data are available to the public through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) website, which provides access to NHANES data and methods information.

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