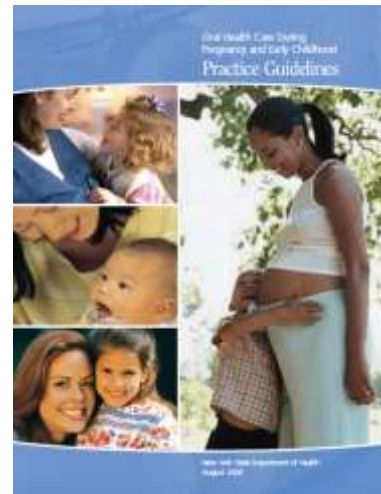


# Oral Health Care during Pregnancy and Early Childhood Practice Guidelines

New York State Department of Health  
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## Recommendations for Prenatal Care Providers

Prenatal care providers are encouraged to integrate oral health into prenatal services by taking the following actions:

- Assess problems with teeth and gums and make appropriate referral to an oral health care provider.
- Encourage all women at the first prenatal visit to schedule an oral health examination if one has not been performed in the last 6 months, or if a new condition has occurred.
- Encourage all women to adhere to the oral health professional's recommendations regarding appropriate follow-up.
- Document in the prenatal care plan whether the woman is already under the care of an oral health professional or a referral is made.
- Facilitate treatment by providing written consultation for oral health referral.
- Develop a list of referral sources that will provide services to pregnant women.
- Share appropriate clinical information with oral health professionals.
- Respond to any questions that the oral health professional may ask.

## Recommendations for Oral Health Professionals

Oral health professionals should render all needed services to pregnant women because:

- Pregnancy by itself is not a reason to defer dental care and necessary treatment for oral health problems.
- First trimester diagnosis and treatment, including needed dental x-rays, can be undertaken safely to diagnose disease processes that need immediate treatment.
- Needed treatment can be provided throughout the remainder of the pregnancy; however, the time period between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> week is ideal.

Oral health professionals are encouraged to take the following actions for pregnant women:

- Plan definitive treatment based on customary oral health considerations including:
  - Chief complaint and medical history
  - History of tobacco, alcohol and other substance use
  - Clinical evaluation
  - Radiographs when needed
- Develop and discuss comprehensive treatment plan that includes preventive, restorative and maintenance care.
- Provide emergency care at any time during pregnancy as indicated by oral condition.
- Provide dental prophylaxis and treatment during pregnancy, preferably during early second trimester but definitely prior to delivery.

## APPENDIX A: Consultation For Pregnant Women to Receive Oral Health Care

Referred To: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Delivery Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Week of Gestation Today: \_\_\_\_\_

Known Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Precautions:  None  Specify (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This patient may have routine dental evaluation and care, including but not limited to:

- Oral health examination
- Dental prophylaxis
- Scaling and root planing
- Extraction
- Dental x-ray with abdominal and neck lead shield
- Local anesthetic with epinephrine
- Root canal
- Restorations (amalgam or composite) filling cavities

Patient may have: (Check all that apply)

- Acetaminophen with codeine for pain control
- Alternative pain control medication: (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Penicillin
- Amoxicillin
- Clindamycin
- Cephalosporins
- Erythromycin (Not estolate form)

Prenatal Care Provider: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL FOR QUESTIONS

### DENTIST'S REPORT (for the Prenatal Care Provider)

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Treatment Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Dentist: \_\_\_\_\_

Date