



ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM:

Activities of the Oral Health Program

The Oral Health Program (OHP) has added a topic on the website for non-certificate courses. The courses under this topic are meant to be used as additional resources for information related to dentistry. The courses available include: **1) Risk Assessment for Dental Caries among Infants and Children by Pediatricians;** **2) Dentistry and Basic Non-Opioid Prescribing in Pain;** and **3) The Opioid Crisis and Orofacial Pain Management.** These courses may be found online at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/27761.htm>. (See **Non-CE Courses.**)

Continuing Education Courses Available Through IN-TRAIN


Dentistry and Basic Non-Opioid Prescribing in Pain is still available as a continuing education course using IN-Train. Dentists can earn three credit hours upon satisfactory course completion. Instructions for taking this course can be found by following the link provided on the OHP website: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/26868.htm>. (See **CE Courses.**) Please email Linda Hillers at LHillers@isdh.IN.gov if you have any questions about completing this course.

Upcoming Events


The next Indiana Oral Health Coalition (IOHC) meeting will be 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Dec. 7, at the Indiana State Department of Health, Fifth Floor, Conference Room 5T.

Health Awareness Months As They Pertain To Dental Care


October is **National Down Syndrome Awareness Month**. Dental care for the patient with Down syndrome can be achieved in the general practitioner's office in most instances with minor adaptations. Although this population has some unique dental care needs, few patients require special facilities in order to receive dental treatment. For more information on Down syndrome please visit the following website: <https://www.ndss.org/resources/dental-issues-syndrome>



November is **National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month**. In the early stages of Alzheimer's, dental care focuses on prevention with dental check-ups, regular cleaning and flossing. However, during the middle and late stages of Alzheimer's, oral health may become more challenging. For more information on Alzheimer's, please visit the following website: <https://www.alz.org/care/alzheimers-dementia-dental.asp>



December is **National HIV/AIDS Awareness Month**. Some of the most common oral problems for people with HIV/AIDS include: oral warts, fever blisters, hairy leukoplakia (white patches on the side of the tongue that cannot be scraped off), oral candidiasis (thrush) and aphthous ulcers, often called canker sores. For more information on HIV/AIDS please visit the following website: <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/health-info/hiv-aids/more-info>



ORAL HEALTH TOPIC:

Diabetes and Dental Care

Diabetes can affect your whole body, including your mouth. So you'll want to take special care of your teeth and gums. It's also important to manage your blood sugar. Over time, increased levels of blood glucose can put you at risk for oral health problems.¹

Whether you have type 1 diabetes or type 2 diabetes, managing your blood sugar level is key. The higher your blood sugar level, the higher your risk of tooth decay, gingivitis and periodontitis.²

More information for this topic may be found at the links below:



✓ **Diabetes: Health Info**

<https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/health-info/diabetes/more-info>

✓ **Diabetes and Oral Health Problems**

<http://www.diabetes.org/living-with-diabetes/treatment-and-care/oral-health-and-hygiene/diabetes-and-oral-health.html>

✓ **Diabetes and Your Smile**

<http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/az-topics/d/diabetes>

REFERENCES:

1. **Diabetes and Dental Care**, WebMD. Retrieved 9/12/2018
2. **Guide to a Healthy Mouth**, Mayo Clinic. Retrieved 9/12/2018

REMINDERS:

The **Oral Health Topic** section of the newsletter is suitable for the general public and may be shared with your patients or people in your community interested in oral health. We welcome any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in this section. Suggestions may be made to Linda Hillers at LHillers@isdh.IN.gov.

These newsletters are archived on the OHP website at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/18695.htm> under the section entitled **Newsletters**. This website contains other information about oral health that may be of interest to you.

Note: If you do not want to receive this newsletter in the future, please contact Linda Hillers at LHillers@isdh.IN.gov or Patty Morris at PMorris@isdh.IN.gov.

Disclaimer: The materials provided in the Oral Health Topic's section are for informational purposes only. Individuals should see an oral health professional to discuss any specific oral health issues.