

# The Transdisciplinary Group Visit: A Rewarding Way to Interact with Patients and Increase Access

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National Primary Oral Health Care Conference

Scottsdale, Arizona

HDC 2006

# A Rural Community Health Center 100 miles away...







# “The Rosenstein Effect”

- CCHS’s in-house referrals (*health collaboratives*)
- CCHS’s school-based dental program referrals
- Children and adults with acute care needs





A day in the clinic ..

# “Titanic Approach\*”



- “Pregnant women and children first”
- Open access approach for *any* person with a dental emergency
- Health Collaboratives integrating oral health and primary care are highly valued

\*(A “public health oriented” services policy was implemented that targets care to the most needy)



"...changing practice  
changing lives..."

## Vision

Reduce disparities in health outcomes and to increase access for poor, minority, and other underserved people through *improved health care delivery systems*

# NDC Key Measure #13

- ❖ For clinic systems with an integrated dental clinic, the following measure is also required:

*Dental exam in past year*

*Goal* >70%

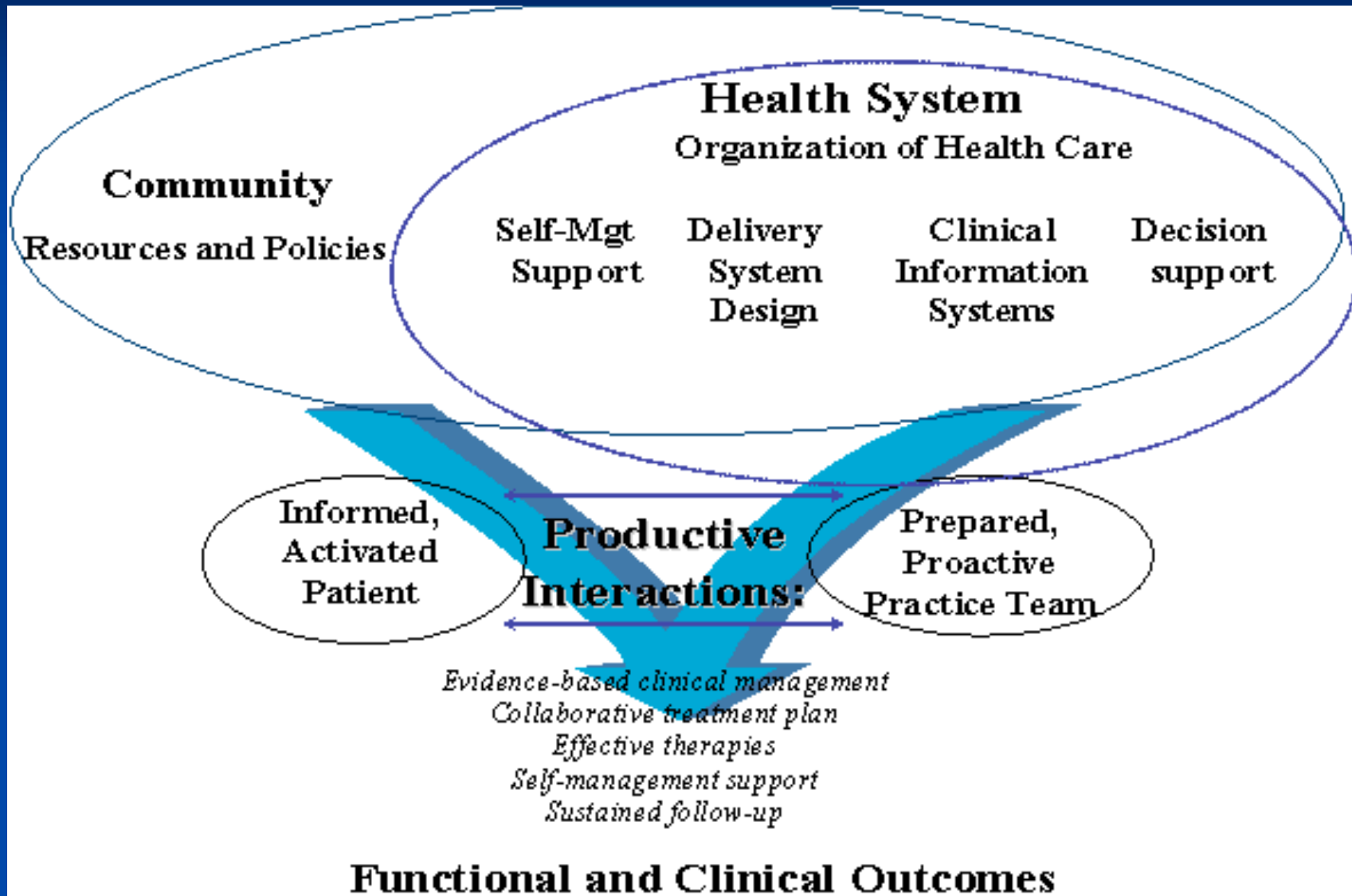
*Rationale*

Effective treatment of periodontal infection and reduction of periodontal inflammation is associated with reduction in glucose blood levels.

# The Goal Is Wellness

“Improving the health of people with chronic illness requires *transforming* a system that is essentially reactive – responding mainly when a person is sick – to one that is proactive and focused on keeping a person as healthy as possible.” - IHI

# The Care Model



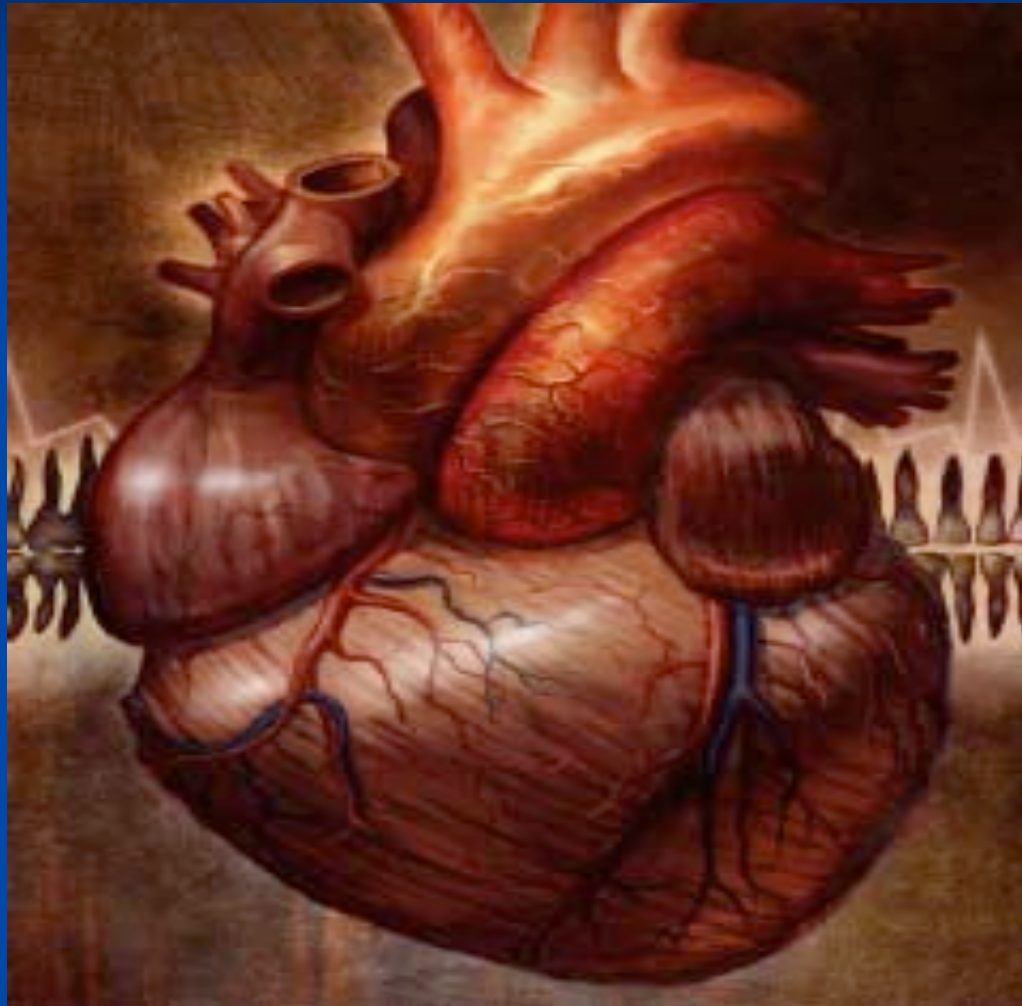
# Why Is Important To Integrate Primary Care And Oral Health?

- Oral health is integral and essential to general health
- Oral health is a determinant factor for quality of life
- Oral diseases restrict activities in school, at work and at home causing millions of school and work hours to be lost each year

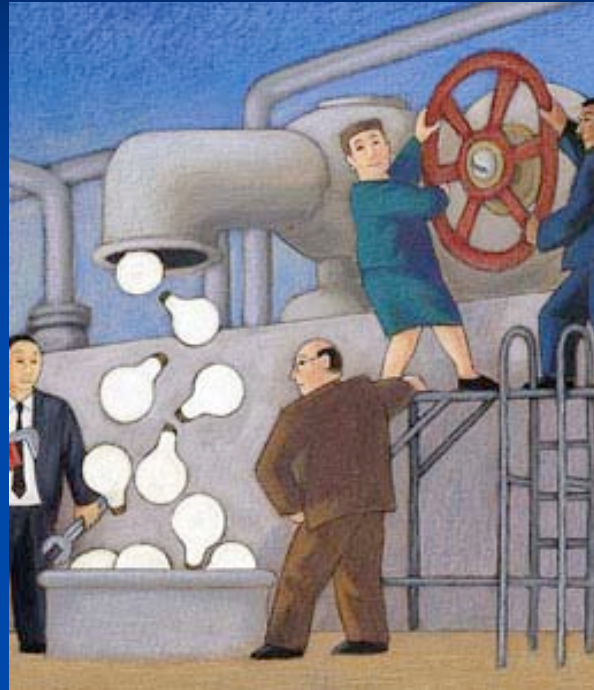
# Is the Importance of Oral Health to Overall Health Evidence -Based ??



There has got to be a link...



# Shared (Group) Medical Visits



*“We strongly encourage group visits,”* says Larry Fields, president of the American Academy of Family Physicians. *“It’s an integral part of the way family medicine is going to be practiced in the future.”*

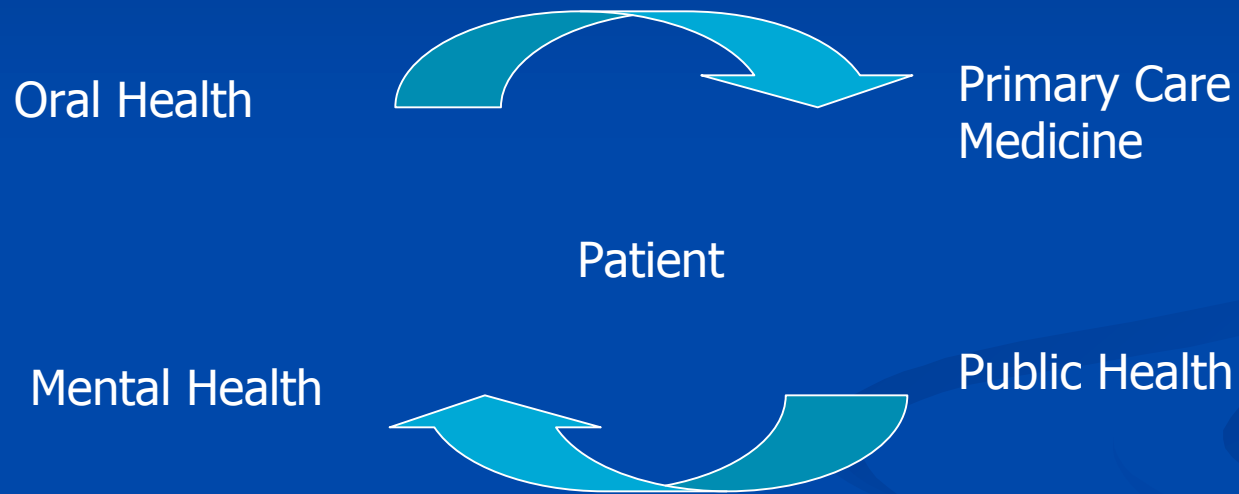
# What Exactly Are Group Visits?

- Voluntary
- Interactive
- Care delivery systems - NOT classes
- Intended to enlist and validate patients as their own caregivers
- Efficient and effective

# Why Do They Work?



# Designing a New Model of Healthcare Delivery



***TRANSDISCIPLINARY*** healthcare is a holistic approach to patient assessment and treatment through a highly collaborative team of health care professionals.

# Oral Cancer Screening



# Exam Techniques



# The Key Issue is Education

- What education and training would be needed by medical providers to competently engage families in oral health?
- What is the current status of oral health training of the medical providers in your health center?
- What opportunities and barriers exist to engage medical provider training in oral health at your center?

	Dentist	Dental Assistant	Dental Hygienist	Physician	Physician's Assistant	Nurse	Other Health Care Workers
Screening	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Examination	X						
Radiographs	X	X	X*				
Mutans testing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Risk Assessment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oral Health education	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Diet Instruction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tooth Brushing Instruction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prescribing Fluoride Supplements	X			X	X		
Professional Topical Fluoride Tx	X	X	X*	X*	X*	X*	
Prescribing Antimicrobials	X			X			
Sealants <small>*May depend on state laws and regulations</small>	X	X	X*				

# Periodontal Disease

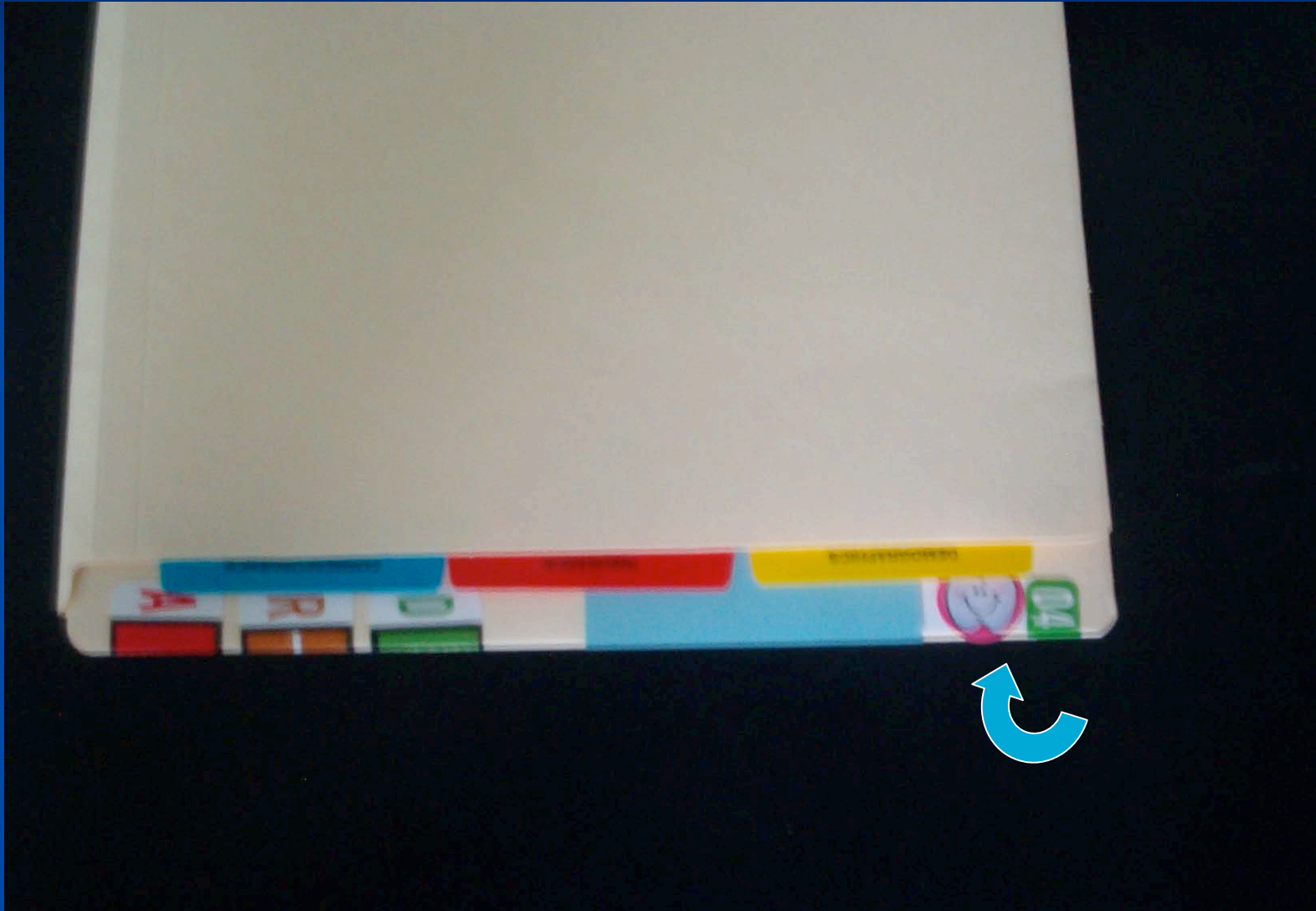


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# Periodontal Screening



# Referral



# How Can You Implement Group Medical Visits In Your Practice?

- Gain support of your organization's administration
- Establish the health care team that will smoothly navigate the shared medical appointment sessions
- Recognize that shared medical appointments are not ideal for all patients or providers
- Address billing and any other system issues

# Coding

- There are no specific codes for PSR or oral cancer screening as separate procedures. However both are components of a limited *oral evaluation* CDT Code D0140
- Most recently revised descriptor of Code D0140: An evaluation limited to a specific oral health problem
- The fee for service schedule of most insurers assign this code \$35. If you are an FQHC the market rate payment may be higher

# How Are We Doing??

- Our medical providers are *real* champions of oral health
- 40% of CCHS's diabetic patients have attended oral health services (over 600 of 1500 CCHS users with Diabetes) – remember we need to get to 70%
- Patients are sharing their satisfaction (anecdotal comments) of this approach to their health care in our health center surveys

# What Patients Are Saying...



- Mrs. Peck comments, “The whole team is very nice and supportive. The questions other participants ask are interesting and helpful.” .
- “These are people experiencing basically the same things you are,” Ms. Krueger says. “Listening to each others' experience is so helpful.”
- “I did not realize I need to visit the dentist each year even though I have replacement teeth,” Mr. Wilson.



# More Information:

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