

## ***New Mexico Perinatal And Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Project***

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Summary** - This four year project will integrate an evidence-based model of inter-professional oral care into the primary care delivered to pregnant women and newborns across New Mexico. Expected project outcomes include improved oral health for pregnant women and their newborn children, as well as new standards of care for treating oral health conditions as part of primary care for this population.

**Need** - More New Mexican children live in households with income below federal poverty level (28.5%) than the national average of 21.6%. Children of poorer families have 2.5 times more untreated and preventable tooth decay. The New Mexico Department of Health oral health survey estimated that 64.6% of New Mexico third graders had caries experience (the Healthy People 2020 goal is 42%), and 37% had untreated decay (the Healthy People 2020 goal is 20%). A 2009-2010 pregnancy risk model system survey (PRAMS) found that only 37.5% of women went to a dentist during pregnancy, and 16.7% reported a dental problem.

**Key Project Activities** - With guidance from the Project Advisory Board, the Perinatal Collaborative and the state Title V agency, project staff will translate the California Evidence based Practice oral health guidelines to implement oral exams, clinical risk-based screening and management, patient education and referrals to dental providers in primary settings for pregnant women and infants. This model has been developed in a three-year HRSA-funded project. *Innovation in Primary Care Oral Health: Inter-professional Team Practice* is a collaborative project of the College of Nursing, the Dental Residency Program and the Center for Development and Disability at the University of New Mexico. The project has successfully implemented an innovative model of inter-professional oral care at two primary care practices in Bernalillo, one of which focuses on prenatal and newborn care. The project will focus on systems building and theory-based clinical change to build an MCH primary care oral health care delivery model with statewide reach. The model will be adapted for statewide implementation through Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico (BCBS), one of four Medicaid managed care organizations in the state. BCBS has true statewide reach (see Introduction).

Roll-out will be on a graduated basis, starting with two sites in the last quarter of the first year, with additional sites in each succeeding project year. A critical project component will be ongoing training and professional development for health care providers and community health workers at participating sites, as well as BCBS Care Coordinators. At the end of the third grant year, the model will be offered to the three other Medicaid managed care organizations in the state.

**Evaluation** - Patient outcomes to be evaluated include reduced oral disease in pregnant women and infants, increased utilization of preventive oral health care among pregnant women and infants and increased dental care in infancy, including children with special health care needs.