



**ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM:**

**Activities of the Oral Health Program:**

**C**ontinuing Education Ready to Use:

The Oral Health Program has added two courses to the OHP website for Continuing Education using IN-TRAIN. These courses are provided by the Indiana State Department of Health. There is no charge and participants can earn CE credits for satisfactorily completing each course (check with your state to make sure it's acceptable). Instructions for taking these courses can be found using the following link: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/26868.htm>

**Infection Control in Dental Facilities in Indiana – 3 CE Credits – **READY FOR USE****

**Dentistry and Basic Non-Opioid Prescribing in Pain – 3 CE Credits – **READY FOR USE****

**News and Events:**

**T**he next Indiana Oral Health Coalition (IOHC) meeting will be held at the Indiana State Department of Health, 5th floor conference room 5T, from 10 a.m. to noon on March 10.

**ISDH Current News:**

**J**anuary is National Blood Donor Month. January is a time when blood organizations like the American Red Cross pay tribute to the nearly 11 million people who give blood each year, and encourage others to start the New Year off right by coming to give the gift of life.

For more information on donating blood, visit the following website from the American Red Cross:

<http://www.redcross.org/news/event/January-is-National-Blood-Donor-Month>



**F**ebruary is National Children's Dental Health Month. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in children. Good oral hygiene practices such as thorough brushing with a fluoride toothpaste can help keep children from getting cavities.

For more information on children's dental health, visit the following website from the American Dental Association:

<http://www.ada.org/en/public-programs/national-childrens-dental-health-month/>



**M**arch is National Nutrition Month. Good nutrition is an important part of keeping teeth healthy. Making small changes during National Nutrition Month and over time helps improve health now and into the future.

For more information on nutrition, visit the following website from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: <http://www.eatright.org/resource/food/resources/national-nutrition-month/national-nutrition-month>



**ORAL HEALTH TOPIC:**

**Medicaid for Dental Care:**

Dental health is an important part of people's overall health. States are required to provide dental benefits to children covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but states choose whether to provide dental benefits for adults. Though oral screening may be part of a physical exam, it does not substitute for a dental examination performed by a dentist.<sup>1</sup>

Coverage for adult dental care is not a federal requirement and varies from state to state. However, dental coverage provided to adults on Medicaid has been improving.<sup>2</sup> This is especially true in Indiana, in a large part due to work accomplished by an advisory panel that includes Medicaid administrators and dentists from Indiana.

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



- ✓ **Medicaid Programs in Indiana**  
<http://member.indianamedicaid.com/programs--benefits/medicaid-programs.aspx>
- ✓ **Am I Covered**  
<http://member.indianamedicaid.com/am-i-eligible.aspx>
- ✓ **Apply for Medicaid**  
<http://member.indianamedicaid.com/apply-for-medicaid.aspx>

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**REFERENCES:**

1. **Dental Care for Medicaid and CHIP Enrollees.** Medicaid.gov. Retrieved 12/1/2016
2. **Does Medicaid Cover Dental.** Medicarepart.org. Retrieved 12/1/2016

**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](mailto: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](mailto:LHillers@isdh.IN.gov) or Patty Morris at [PMorris@isdh.IN.gov](mailto: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.