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## WCHQ Oral Health Collaborative first in nation to publicly report oral health quality measures

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**F**ive regional Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ) members recently became the first dental practices in the country to publicly report oral health quality measures.

The founding members of the WCHQ Oral Health Collaborative include: ForwardDental; Marshfield Clinic Health System; Dental Associates; HealthPartners (MN); and Children’s Wisconsin. These practices serve a diverse demographic and geographic range of pediatric and adult patients in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

WCHQ is a voluntary, nonprofit multistakeholder consortium of organizations and health systems committed to trusted, transparent and inclusive collaboration. WCHQ’s mission is to publicly report meaningful measures designed to stimulate improvement in health and affordability. WCHQ members include Ascension, Aurora, Gunderson, Marshfield Clinic, Children’s Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin, UW Health, ThedaCare and Mayo Clinic of Wisconsin, as well as rural hospitals and medical clinics. WCHQ members represent more than 65% of the primary care physicians in Wisconsin.

The benefit of collaboration is the opportunity it creates to share ideas and learn with a diverse group of multidisciplinary colleagues who are experienced in the medical, dental, measurement and improvement domain sciences.

The mission of the Oral Health Collaborative mirrors WCHQ’s, namely to foster opportunities to inform, educate and improve health by publicly reporting valid, reliable and relevant measures. Activated communities, clinical teams and patients that understand the “why” of care are better able to engage in shared decision making.

The measures were selected in accordance with the Collaborative’s guiding principles to support, not



supplant, the work of state and national organizations. WCHQ uses de-identified data submitted by the dental organizations to generate results on measures that are then publicly reported on WCHQ.org.

By consensus, the Oral Health Collaborative selected caries risk assessment in children, ongoing care in adults with periodontitis, and topical fluoride application in high-risk children as the first publicly reported measures, a decision that was influenced by the prevalence of oral disease and information from the American Dental Association (ADA) Dental Quality Alliance. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and ADA recommend the application of topical fluorides and risk assessment strategies to prevent and reduce the burden of caries in high-risk children. The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) supports coordinated and continuous maintenance along with applicable therapies to moderate complications from periodontal disease.

The WCHQ Oral Health Collaborative members charted a new course by challenging normative processes and changing legacy thinking. Sharing data required trust, respect for diversity, integrity and constancy of purpose. Redesign and changed thinking are possible when all stakeholders, care teams, communities and, most importantly, patients come together with a common purpose.

For more information and to view the reported WCHQ oral health quality measures, visit [www.reports.wchq.org](http://www.reports.wchq.org) and [www.WCHQ.org](http://www.WCHQ.org).