Delta Dental of Colorado recently launched a public awareness campaign focused on the fact that childhood cavities are nearly 100% preventable.

The campaign, fittingly titled “No Kidding,” sets out to surprise people with the facts surrounding childhood dental disease—while taking a proactive stance toward prevention.

It features a mix of media including magazine ads, radio spots, elevator signage, web banners and a dedicated website, www.monthlymouthfulco.com. These are just a few of the ways we’re encouraging people to stop kidding around when it comes to helping prevent childhood dental disease.

We have also developed materials to help spread the word. These materials—including eye-catching posters and postcards—are available to download from the Monthly Mouthful website (Employer Resources tab). We want people to know that we’re not kidding around when it comes to helping children avoid cavities.

Our mission is to improve the oral health of the communities we serve. We’re working hard to do just that, by spreading this important message: childhood dental disease is nearly 100% preventable. No kidding!
Promoting Prevention

The Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation made a $1.5 million grant to the Children’s Hospital (TCH) in 2009. The grant—intended to fund a dental program focused on preventing dental disease in underserved children—sparked a nationwide search for a uniquely qualified dental professional to run the clinic. The search committee sought a pediatric specialist with a solid understanding of public health. They hoped to attract an outgoing leader, willing to educate dental students and health care professionals in the community. Enter Dr. Elizabeth Shick, whose qualifications include a DDS, a master’s in public health and a special certification in pediatric dentistry.

“Dr. Shick’s background was a perfect fit,” said Barbara Springer, Executive Director of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. “We were thrilled to be able to attract such talent to head this new program.”

Dr. Shick joined the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation’s Cavity Free at Three Clinic at the Children’s Hospital on July 6, 2009. She serves as director of the clinic, as well as assistant professor in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine.

Education leads to better outcomes

“We see huge numbers of young patients in need of dental care. But more importantly, these children and their families need education,” explained Dr. Shick. “We spend a significant amount of appointment time reviewing risk factors and proper oral hygiene, because many parents are unaware of the severe impact dental disease can have on their children. Most of our parents say, ‘Wow, I had no idea that I should be doing this.’ Each visit, we teach the parents something new,” she continued. “So we know that we are making a difference.”

Sometimes, parents don’t realize that dental problems can be prevented.

“So many parents put their little ones to bed with a bottle of juice or milk as a means of comfort,” she explained. While the short term result is a child who stops crying and goes to sleep, the long term results can be devastating. “Giving a child a bottle or cup at bedtime with anything except water is a direct path to tooth decay. That’s why it is so important to start talking to parents and spreading the word.”

Community providers matter too

For Dr. Shick, the need for infant oral health awareness is clear. However, the concept of the Age One dental visit (all children should see a dentist when their first tooth erupts or by age one) might not be as familiar to other dental providers.

“Of course, dentists know that cavities are almost 100% preventable,” Dr. Shick explained. “But getting providers to embrace the importance of early, preventive approaches such as the Age One dental visit can be challenging. It’s a relatively new approach to pediatric dentistry and one that historically has not been emphasized in dental school.”
That’s one of the reasons that Dr. Shick’s position was created.

“The Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation’s Cavity Free at Three Clinic at the Children’s Hospital is changing the way medical providers view children’s oral health. We’re shattering old assumptions that young children don’t benefit from oral health care. We are proving to providers that if we start early, we can teach children great oral health habits for life. Who would not advocate for that?” she stated.

Roadblocks

The majority of Dr. Shick’s patients are underserved children living in the Denver-metro communities. Often their families struggle to make ends meet. For families challenged to provide their children basic necessities, dental care sometimes becomes a lower priority.

“I hate to see it, but I do understand it. For example, transportation is a real issue for my patients. Just getting to the appointment can be a major success or failure, depending on the day. A large number of patients do not make it back for very important follow-up appointments. It can be frustrating, but I know that sometimes it is out of the family’s control,” she conceded.

Opportunities

Colorado’s excellent dental and medical providers can help by addressing preventive oral health during patient visits.

Some dental providers may hesitate to embrace this new way of thinking, because their training in dental school did not address treating very young children. However, physicians are starting to refer children to the dentist earlier—so providers may wish to prepare for this influx of young patients. The great news is that we’re ready and willing to train providers on preventive oral care in children,” assured Dr. Shick.

The staff of Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation’s Cavity Free at Three Clinic at the Children’s Hospital provides on-site training for health care providers, continuing education courses, and printed educational materials for interested oral health care providers in Colorado.

Dr. Shick and her staff are hopeful that other providers will embrace the preventive mentality. “If we can get enough community providers on board, we can develop strong oral hygiene habits in parents and children that will last a lifetime. That’s going to make a huge difference in the future of the children in Colorado,” she concluded.

Dr. Shick and her team are available to make provider office visits for training and education. If you would like more information, contact Dr. Shick’s Program Assistant Lori Mahan at (720) 777-5596/mahan.lori@tchden.org or Dr. Shick directly at shick.elizabeth@tchden.org.

Making even more kids in Colorado smile

Colorado’s kids have more to smile about this year. Now more kids than ever can get the dental coverage they need.

Effective September 1, 2010, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) expanded eligibility and changed coverage to offer three different co-payment options: $0, $5 and $10. Each child’s co-payment is determined by the plan in which he or she is enrolled.

It’s easy to check a CHP+ subscriber’s coverage. Simply visit our website and log into Dentist Connection, or call our Integrated Voice Response (IVR) system. Just call 1-800-610-0201 and follow the prompts.

Things to note:

• You may see some new faces, because CHP+ is now available to more kids in our state.
• We’ve added two new CHP+ group numbers: 9676 and 9677.
• We continue to cover CHP+ subscribers with group numbers 6901-6904.
• These changes took effect 9-1-10.
• Co-payments vary—be sure to verify coverage at the time of service.
Important Information About Dental Benefits

Your patients’ Delta Dental benefits are determined by their employer. Dental treatment performed should be based on dentist/patient mutual agreement and be completed with the best interests of the patient in mind. Your claims will be processed in accordance with the employer group contract and the Delta Dental National Processing Policies that you have contractually agreed to follow.

Classes & Seminars

Delta Dental offers educational seminars and CPR classes to participating dentists and their office staff at no cost. Space is limited and registration is required.

Our dental office staff seminars provide timely and relevant information on “what’s new” at Delta Dental of Colorado.

Seminars take place online, or at Delta Dental of Colorado’s headquarters in the Denver Tech Center, unless otherwise noted.

Delta Dental of Colorado (Headquarters)
4582 S. Ulster Street, 12th Floor
Denver, CO 80237

Information for viewing web-based seminars will be e-mailed to you at least one week prior to the class date.

Please RSVP for classes and seminars at least 10 days prior by calling (303) 889-8677.

CPR Class

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 10, 2010</td>
<td>Denver</td>
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Dental Office Staff Seminars

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<tr>
<td>November 5, 2010</td>
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<td>November 12, 2010</td>
<td>Colorado Springs</td>
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Policy Spotlight

To help you become more familiar with Delta Dental’s policies, each edition of Update highlights a different policy statement.

The complete list of policy statements is located in the Delta Dental Dentist Handbook accessible through the CPSA site in the Dentist section of our website at www.deltadentalco.com.

Policy Statement No. 1

Dentist shall complete and submit an ADA approved dental claim form, paper or electronic, for completed treatment or pretreatment estimate.

All treatment performed must be submitted to Delta Dental regardless of whether the service is covered or if the patient has met their benefit maximum. This ensures accurate processing and pricing for treatment performed for the Delta Dental members.

Additionally, DDCO encourages the use of pretreatment estimates if the cost of treatment is expected to exceed $400.
Time is Money!

Some of the benefits of direct deposit include:

- It’s free and easy to use
- Daily payments directly into your account
- View your EOBs online via Dentist Connection 24/7
- A secure system that is confidential and protected

Enrollment is easy! Go to www.deltadentalco.com and click on Dentist -- Dentist Forms -- Direct Deposit Authorization Agreement. Print and complete the form, attach a voided check and fax everything to: 303-741-2230 ATTN Provider Records.

Want to learn more? Send an e-mail to profservices677@ddpco.com or call 303-889-8677.

Helpful Hints for Claim Submission

Please refer to the Delta Dental National Processing Policies found on Delta Dental of Colorado’s website. Click on Dentists and login to the CPSA site to view the complete document.

Space Maintainers

When submitting a claim for a space maintainer (D1510 – D1525), please use the tooth number of the missing tooth, rather than the number of the erupting tooth. Space maintainers submitted for missing primary anterior teeth, missing permanent teeth, or for patients over the contract age limit are denied and chargeable to the patient.

Inlay Restorations

Inlay restorations (D2510 – D2530, D2610 – D2630, and D2650 – D2652) are considered optional treatment. When the patient’s dental plan permits, an alternate benefit for an amalgam or resin restoration is applied. The difference between the allowance for the amalgam or resin restoration and the approved amount for the inlay restoration is chargeable to the patient.

Questions?

Send us an e-mail. Electronic communication is the most efficient way to get the answers you need. If you have not submitted your e-mail address to us, please send it to profservices677@ddpco.com so that we can add you to our e-communications list.

We Value Your Opinion

This newsletter is meant to be an informative and useful publication for participating dentists and staff. E-mail your ideas, suggestions and comments to the Delta Dental of Colorado editorial team at updatenewsletter@ddpco.com.
Healthy Teeth, Happy Babies campaign unveils new materials!

The Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation is excited to revitalize their infant oral health education campaign with the release of enhanced patient education materials and a catchy new name: Healthy Teeth, Happy Babies.

No one better understands the relationship between dental health and overall well-being than you, our dental providers. This is why your support of our campaign has produced amazing results. To take this growing movement to the next level, we’ve redesigned our materials with a fresh new look. The overall goal remains the same—to help you educate expectant parents about childhood dental disease and the importance of good oral health habits during pregnancy.

The materials are bilingual and have been streamlined, with English on one side and Spanish on the other. Healthy Teeth, Happy Babies materials continue to be offered free of charge.

To order materials go to: www.HealthyTeethHappyBabies.com or contact Colleen Rauscher (colleenrauscher@gbsm.com or 303.825.6100).

These materials will be highly visible this fall in radio, print and television advertising and on buses throughout the Denver-metro area.

Let’s continue the push towards eradicating dental disease in Colorado’s children. Our campaign is working; awareness is increasing. Let’s keep up the great work!

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**Gum disease during pregnancy – things your patients need to know:**

- Gum disease is an infection, and infections are risk factors for poor outcomes in pregnancy.
- Pregnant women with gum disease may be risking a bad outcome if they do not receive treatment.
- Routine treatment during pregnancy helps to lower the level of gum disease.
- Treatment for gum disease during pregnancy is safe for both the mother and the child.
- Health care providers should make every effort to prevent and treat gum diseases both before and during pregnancy.

Delta Dental’s Networks Keep Growing!

Delta Dental of Colorado welcomes the following new dentists to its network (specialties are noted in parentheses when applicable):

PREM = Dentists who have recently joined the Delta Dental Premier® network.
PPO = Dentists who have recently joined the Delta Dental PPO® network.
PREM/PPO = Dentists who have recently joined the Delta Dental Premier and Delta Dental PPO networks.

Aurora
Dr. Brodie Bowman (Ortho) PPO
Dr. Katherine Chin Prem/PPO
Dr. Andrew Glassick Prem/PPO
Dr. Gary Moore Prem/PPO
Dr. Robert Renck Prem/PPO
Dr. Kyle Ricks Prem/PPO
Dr. Michelle Vance Prem/PPO
Dr. Cynthia Wright Prem

Arvada
Dr. Jason Ganong Prem/PPO
Dr. Douglas Hardy (Perio) Prem/PPO
Dr. Thomas Niemi PPO

Boulder
Dr. Danny Abboud Prem/PPO
Dr. Lisa Datta (Pedo) Prem/PPO
Dr. Gary Hulse PPO
Dr. Lauren Watts Prem

Broomfield
Dr. Robert McBride Prem
Dr. Cynthia Sheeks Prem

Centennial
Dr. David Lindman Prem/PPO
Dr. Deborah Michael (Ortho) PPO
Dr. J Michael Troop Prem
Dr. Eric Wolfe Prem/PPO

Colorado Springs
Dr. John Bailey Prem/PPO
Dr. Justin Broadbent Prem/PPO
Dr. Rhonda Bowen Prem
Dr. Sara Devin (Ortho) Prem/PPO
Dr. Leigh Ann Greer Boyle Prem
Dr. Michelle Haynes Prem
Dr. Roger Kilcuyne Prem/PPO
Dr. Robert Lozoff Prem/PPO
Dr. Wendy O’Haver Prem/PPO
Dr. Randal Payne Prem/PPO
Dr. Ted Rigby Prem/PPO
Dr. Daniel Snow (Ortho) Prem/PPO
Dr. Chad Zillich

Commerce City
Dr. Samuel Archibald PPO
Dr. Tara Huntsman Prem/PPO

Conifer
Dr. Jason Mahoney Prem/PPO

Denver
Dr. Laura Brenner Prem
Dr. Robert Brewka (Ortho) PPO
Dr. Sheldon Ciner PPO
Dr. Alan Coombs PPO
Dr. Maria DiPasquale (Oral) Prem
Dr. Monica King (Ortho) Prem/PPO
Dr. Douglas Koch PPO
Dr. Carol Lazell PPO
Dr. Christopher Roberts (Pedo) Prem/PPO
Dr. Brianna Sweeney Prem/PPO
Dr. Karina Thompson Prem/PPO

Durango
Dr. James Moore Prem
Dr. Angela Pinkerton PPO
Dr. Lawrence Suazo (Pedo) PPO

Elizabeth
Dr. Ronald Terry Prem

Englewood
Dr. Kyle Klepacki (Pedo) Prem
Dr. Hillery Oliver Prem/PPO
Dr. David Rodrick PPO
Dr. Thomas Stone (Oral) PPO

Erie
Kelly Wettstein Prem/PPO

Firestone
Dr. Brian Carter PPO

Fort Collins
Dr. Kevin Pass Prem
Dr. Kathryn Radtke Prem
Dr. Jannalyn Slookemaker Prem/PPO
Dr. Gary Spruill Prem

Glenwood Springs
Dr. Paul Allen (Pedo) Prem
Dr. Ryan Klumb Prem/PPO
Dr. Douglas Koch Prem
Dr. Steven Weinstein PPO

Grand Junction
Dr. Benjamin Brown Prem
Dr. Derek Dean Prem
Dr. Nicholas Gandola Prem/PPO
Dr. Joshua Rackham Prem/PPO

Highlands Ranch
Dr. Erik Hekkert PPO
Dr. Aaron Kubicek Prem/PPO
Dr. Brent Nielsen Prem/PPO
Dr. Sarah Parsons Prem

La Junta
Dr. David Trujillo Prem

Lakewood
Dr. Daniel Larsen Prem/PPO

Limon
Dr. Carol Niforatos Prem/PPO
Dr. Derek Petersen PPO

Littleton
Dr. Robert Brewka (Ortho) PPO
Dr. Janie Boyesen (Perio) PPO

Lone Tree
Dr. Maria DiPasquale (Oral) Prem

Longmont
Dr. Douglas Hardy (Perio) Prem/PPO

Louisville
Dr. Colleen Bock Prem
Dr. Russell Hanson Prem
Dr. Rachel Yorita (Endo) Prem/PPO

Loveland
Dr. Lisa Datta (Pedo) Prem/PPO
Dr. Abram Tanner Prem/PPO

Montrose
Dr. Andrew Loomis Prem/PPO

Northglenn
Dr. Kathleen Murphy PPO
Dr. Erin Tobkin Prem/PPO

Parker
Dr. Gregory Copeland Prem
Dr. Irina Lovinescu (Ortho) Prem/PPO
Dr. Holly Sletten Prem

Pueblo
Dr. Joshua Erekson Prem/PPO
Dr. Kelli Pershin Prem/PPO
Dr. Tina Skinner PPO

Pueblo West
Dr. Aaron Murray PPO

Strasburg
Dr. Carol Niforatos Prem/PPO

Thornton
Dr. Matthew Coons Prem/PPO
Dr. Monica King (Ortho) Prem/PPO

Westminster
Dr. Cara Mudd Prem/PPO
Dr. David Schleicher (Pedo) PPO
Dr. Kyoko Yamaji (Oral) Prem/PPO

Willington
Dr. Shaun Rocknak Prem/PPO

Windsor
Dr. Shaun Rocknak Prem

Willow Creek
Dr. Jody Mings

Welcome Dr. Jennifer Crossman

Willow Creek
Dr. Jody Mings

Welcome Dr. Jennifer Crossman
Childhood Obesity and Cavities

TUESDAY, June 22 (HealthDay News) --

Obesity and increased consumption of sugary drinks appear to be linked to rising rates of cavities in very young children, a U.S. study has found.

Researchers looked at 65 children, aged 2 to 5, who received treatment for cavities in baby teeth and found that nearly 28 percent of those kids had a body-mass index that indicated they were overweight or obese.

That rate is 5 percent higher than the estimated national average for childhood overweight or obesity, the study authors explained in a news release from the University at Buffalo, in New York.

The researchers also found that about 71 percent of the children had a daily caloric intake higher than the normal 1,200 calories for their age group.

The preliminary findings were to be presented Tuesday at the Endocrine Society’s annual meeting in San Diego.

“We hypothesized that poor nutritional choices may link obesity and dental decay in young children, but there is very little published data associating these two health issues,” first study author Dr. Kathleen Bethin, an associate professor of pediatrics at the University at Buffalo and director of the pediatric endocrinology and diabetes fellowship program at Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo, said in the news release.

“The main point of our findings is that poor nutrition may link obesity to tooth decay. Thus the dental office . . . may be an ideal place to educate families about nutrition and the risks of obesity and dental decay,” Bethin stated.

She added that there was “no difference in total calories consumed by the overweight and healthy weight kids, so the problem isn’t overeating, per se, just making the wrong food choices.”

An estimated 5 percent to 10 percent of youngsters in the United States have early childhood cavities and childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past three decades, affecting nearly one in five kids by 2008, according to Healthy People 2010.

SOURCE: University at Buffalo, news release, June 22, 2010