

Advancing Oral Health Together: A Call to Join Our Coalition – AGILE (Alliance for Guideline Implementation in oral hEalth)

Aligning efforts to implement oral health guidelines: a systems approach to achieving overall health outcomes.

Every day, patients leave dental offices without receiving care that research has proven works. The guidelines exist — the failure is one of *implementation*. In one large oral health plan, only 2.2% of teeth with early cavities received sealants, and those that didn't were nearly three times more likely to need a filling within two years.¹ Similarly, in MarketScan Commercial Claims and Encounters Data, a large, convenience sample of U.S. patients with commercial dental insurance, over the course of 3 years, more than 63,000 dental appointments were associated with a prescription for antibiotic prophylaxis. Among these prescriptions, more than 77% were not consistent with published guidelines.² And Black, Hispanic, and Asian children are less likely than white children to receive guideline-supported preventive treatments such as fluoride varnish and dental sealants.³

Translating a guideline into routine care requires many moving parts: quality metrics, coverage policies, provider training, patient education, and more. Right now, there is no setting where all relevant organizations align in this critical work. Across the system, organizations are working on pieces of this puzzle — but without coordination, the pieces never come together.

Together, our coalition can get to improved health through evidence informed oral health guidelines that are supported across the healthcare enterprise.

The Solution: A Cross-Sector Coalition – AGILE

We have formed a coalition with a clear mission: to advance health and well-being by accelerating the implementation of evidence-informed oral health guidelines.

Guided by a collective impact framework, our coalition unites guideline developers, health plans, payers, purchasers, educators, clinicians, patient navigators, health policy advocates and community representatives under a common agenda with shared measurement and mutual accountability.

We will also engage health systems focused on overall health --- including oral health --- providing the chance to bring to dental what already works in medicine. Our coalition builds the guideline-to-practice pathways that oral health has traditionally lacked.

Why Join Now

The US is at a healthcare crossroads; scientific and technological advances are creating exciting new opportunities to improve the nation's oral health, yet costs are increasing and funding for government programs is in constant decline. We must

maximize and implement advances now. AGILE is calling on committed stakeholders to join us.

References:

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2. Suda, Katie J., Gregory S. Calip, Jifang Zhou, et al. "Assessment of the Appropriateness of Antibiotic Prescriptions for Infection Prophylaxis Before Dental Procedures, 2011 to 2015." *JAMA Network Open* 2, no. 5 (2019): e193909. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.3909>.
3. Wei, Liang, Susan O. Griffin, and Valerie A. Robison. "Disparities in Receipt of Preventive Dental Services in Children from Low-Income Families." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 55, no. 3 (2018): e53–60. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2018.04.039>.

Our Members:

- University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine
- National Association of Dental Plans
- University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine
- American Dental Education Association
- American Dental Hygienists' Association
- Overjet
- PDS Health
- Medicaid Medicare CHIP Services Dental Association