Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

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B.S. in Nursing, May, 2012, Spring Hill College

Implementation of Oral Health Recommendations in Pediatric Primary Care

Date: November 13, 2019
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Nursing Administration Building

Abstract
Problem: Early childhood caries (ECC) is the most common chronic disease of childhood. Although preventable, a major barrier to dental care for children is lack of access to a dental provider. Fluoride is a key preventive intervention. Current practice recommendations to reduce the risk of ECC include the application of fluoride varnish (FV) in the primary care setting at well-child visits for all children five-years of age or younger. The purpose of this quality improvement initiative was to evaluate the number of FV applications in a Midwestern, suburban pediatric primary care practice.

Methods: A descriptive design utilizing retrospective medical record review to determine baseline information after initial implementation of FV applications for children aged 12, 18, 24, and 36 months who experienced well-child visits between April 1st, 2019 through May 15th, 2019.

Results: A total of 103 patients fit the age criteria of 12, 18, 24, and 36 months and experienced well-child visits between April 1st, 2019 and May 15th, 2019. Twenty-seven (26%) patients received FV. There was a statistically significant difference between providers in the number of FV applications given. The physician saw 56 children in the designated age range at their well-child visits and gave two FV applications (4% completion rate) and the nurse practitioner gave 25 FV applications out of 47 children (53% completion rate). The average reimbursement for providing FV applications was $17.48.

Implications For Practice: This QI initiative successfully introduced a FV application program into a pediatric primary care practice. The primary care provider may serve as a resource to decrease the gap in preventive dental care services for children younger than five-years of age.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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