

## 4337.1: Adding Oral Health Content to Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Education and Practice: Interprofessional Education between Nursing and Pediatric Dentistry

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Interprofessional education is increasingly crucial to improve the oral health of vulnerable populations who lack access to dental care and services in many of our communities. As Haber et al. (2015) assert, a compelling need exists to put the “mouth back in the head” in nurse practitioner education. This presentation shares efforts to incorporate oral health into Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) graduate education and practice to meet growing needs, particularly the 0-5 year age group, in all communities, regardless of socioeconomic status. First year PNP students are instructed in the oral-systemic connection, the prevalence of early childhood caries (ECC), oral assessment, caries risk assessment instruments, fluoride varnish application, and preventive education to parents and children under 5 years of age. These students embrace oral health prevention messages and eagerly share knowledge and skills with patients and families in multiple settings: acute and primary care. They report implementing oral health assessment in their part-time acute care jobs while attending graduate programs as well as their PNP sites. Incorporating fluoride varnish into primary care practices remains needed. The nursing profession has long established links to medicine and medical practice, yet rarely shares training with dental professionals. The role of Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) is not always understood by other health professional groups: PNP as well as Family Nurse Practitioners (FNPs) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) can clearly expand evidence-based oral health interventions with enhanced knowledge and skills. Efforts linking nursing with dentistry must expand.

### Learning Areas

Advocacy for health and health education Other professions or practice related to public health Public health or related nursing

### Learning Objectives

Describe components of oral health education for pediatric nurse practitioners.

### Keyword(S)

Curricula, Nursing Education

 **Handout(s)** - [Core clinical competencies for all primary care providers HANDOUT 2017.pdf](#)

 **Handout(s)** - [Adding Oral Health Content to Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Education and Practice References 2017.pdf](#)

 **Handout(s)** - [Key Oral Health Messages\\_Spanish\\_SPICE.pdf](#)

 **Handout(s)** - [Key Oral Health Messages\\_SPICE.pdf](#)

 **Multimedia** - [Audio \(mp3\) recording](#)

 **Multimedia** - [Recorded Presentation \(mp4\)](#)

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