

Kids Oral Health Improvement SB 326

Children who qualify for ECP services in a school setting

Testimony of Doreen Eyler, RDH

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Thank you Chairwoman Schmidt and to the Committee for this opportunity to address you about ECP services in Kansas schools to not only include children who qualify for free or reduced lunch, but also the children who have not had a dental exam for over a year. I am Doreen Eyler, a Registered Dental Hygienist, with 31 years of clinical experience. In December 2005, I began working with GraceMed in Wichita, Kansas, as an extended care permit hygienist.

GraceMed is one of the 38 Safety Net Clinics in Kansas. We are a Federally Qualified Health Center providing both medical and dental care for the people of Wichita and south central Kansas. We treat the uninsured, the underinsured and the insured. We accept Medicare, Health Wave and commercial insurances. Those without insurance are charged according to a sliding fee scale. As a whole, the five GraceMed clinics provide medical and dental treatment for over 57,000 patient visits per year.

GraceMed employs seven full time dental hygienists with extended care permits II and four PRN extended care permit II dental hygienists to work not only in the clinical settings, but also work in our outreach program, where we help with access to care in Kansas. The sponsoring dentists required of ECP hygienists are the dentists employed by GraceMed.

GraceMed ECP Hygienists travel a 60 mile radius around Wichita five days a week, 52 weeks a year without our dentists being physically with us. The portable dental delivery system equipment is carried in the GraceMed vans

along with all the supplies needed to perform our patient care in the wide variety of facilities we visit.

Today, I would like to address the qualifications set for children in school to receive our ECP preventive services.

Prevention is the first and foremost important message we can spread to our kids in school along with giving them access to a dental prophylaxis, fluoride varnish and possibly sealants. Right now, the law states that ECP hygienists can only deliver these preventive services to the children who qualify for free or reduced lunch and the children who have a medical card. I would ask that we add one more way to qualify for these preventive services by adding the children who have not seen a dentist within the year.

When we first started asking schools five years ago if they would like us to come and provide preventive services to their children, there was a lot of excitement. Then we watched the smiles disappear when we explained the qualifications for our program. Schools that I come in contact with will NOT show me their free or reduced lunch list. We found that it was easier to hand out our consents for preventive services to each and every child in the school. On the paperwork, it allows the parent to tell us whether they qualify or not, leaving the school out of it. The paperwork is handed back often not filled out adequately. Time is spent handing the paperwork back to the parents with the missing information highlighted. Even if the parent gives us consent to see their child that day, I cannot provide preventive services to their child until I know if they qualify.

Paperwork often comes back with parents writing notes in regards to their financial status and wanting help! Both parents may be working, keeping them out of the free or reduced lunch qualifications, and yet do not have access to dental insurance. Parents often write "No Fair" on the returned paperwork when they do not understand why only the few can enjoy these services. Lately, we have found that parents would rather send their child to school with a sack lunch than fill out the paperwork for help. In the rural areas, your personal business becomes sensitive when you know everyone working in your child's

school. These are the families who value our preventive services and are being left out.

When we come for the day to these schools, we screen all the children in the school and pick out the children who qualify and had appropriate parental consent for the preventive services. This still breaks my heart when it is quite evident which children were taken out of class and taken to a different room. We are still identifying the children in class who qualify for these services. The school didn't do it; the parents did, all for the sake of wanting preventive care.

The medical card children actually can find a medical/dental home but the children without dental insurance need help too. Will the parents who go to a dentist regularly qualify for these services? Not if the parents fill out the paperwork honestly.

January through December of 2011, GraceMed outreach provided preventive services to 6,019 children in Kansas. 65% of those children were covered by a medical card. Friday, January 27th, 2012, I wrote on 15 consent forms to parents wanting preventive services that I appreciated them valuing these services but because they did not qualify their child, received a screening and fluoride varnish only today. On the screening reports, it was found that each child needed sealants. I could have easily had time that day to see those 15 children. Another child came through the line and the school nurse was surprised that this little girl wasn't in line for preventive services. I pointed out the consent form to the nurse to show that the mom says NO, does not qualify for free and reduced lunch and NO, to a medical card. The nurse just shook her head and told me that it was a single mom trying to make ends meet, but she (nurse) was not willing to give me the necessary qualifying information.

I hope that each child who does have dental insurance uses it in their dental home on a six month recall. There are children out there who do not access dental care with dental insurance. When I leave the boundaries of Wichita, the story is the same whether you have a medical card or dental insurance. The parents are reluctant to find those preventive appointments.

What will happen with this change in my outreach? I will be able see more children. Some smaller safety net clinics may not be prepared with the

manpower needed to see all the children who now qualify. My hope though, is that this allows some doors to open in some communities that do not want to call attention to the free or reduced lunch children, let alone the medical card children. It would be nice to be able to actually see any child with parental consent in a school setting, but if by adding this one more qualification helps, we'll take it.

When we leave a school, we leave screening reports that tell the parent or guardian that their child received an ECP service today. ECP I and II hygienists cannot diagnose, but we can screen oral health conditions and inform parents/guardians of obvious dental concerns, and then refer to dental professionals for obvious care needed. It has been a joy this year to be returning to some of these schools for the fourth and fifth time to finally see the positive screening reports on the children who received sealants and fluoride each time we came.

On a sad note, referring is the most difficult part of our job. We visit areas where the family may have to drive up to two hours for dental care they can afford. With the economic status of our families right now in Kansas, the cost of gas and time off from work is often enough to stop a family from finding help, and most important, time away from the class room. Children do sit in school in pain. Our Kansas dentists are doing a better job with being a medical card provider and helping with school screenings. GraceMed ECP hygienists try to navigate the school nurse and family into a medical/dental home. We are trying to spread the word about the importance of primary dentition along with prevention.

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Dental Consent Form

Your child's school has been selected to participate in the Kansas School Sealant Program. Dental Professionals will be offering services in your child's school such as: sealants, fluoride varnish, and/or cleanings. **To qualify for a cleaning or sealant services your child must be at least one of the following:**

*Eligible for the free/reduced lunch program? Yes No

*Enrolled in Medicaid/Healthwave? Yes No

Student Name _____ Gender Male Female

Student SSN _____ Student Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Student Address _____
(Street and Apt or Lot #) (City) (Zip Code)

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s) _____

The State of Kansas and GraceMed are dedicated to improving your child's oral health by offering outreach dental services. After your child is treated, you will receive a report stating what services were provided along with a dental referral if needed. On occasion, a Wichita State University senior hygiene student may accompany and assist us at a dental event.

The information from my child's participation in this special event may be utilized anonymously for statistical purposes and information that identifies my child or family will never be disclosed in any form or publication.

Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply)

- Black/African American Hispanic Asian Caucasian(White)
 American Indian/Alaska Native Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Other

When did your child last visit a dentist? In the past year More than a year Never

*Check all services you want your child to receive: Dental Cleaning Fluoride Varnish Sealants

Check here only if you DON'T want your child to be seen for a screening.

I give GraceMed permission to provide dental services for my child and to collect payment from Medicaid or Healthwave. I understand I will NOT be responsible to pay any portion of these services.

*Medicaid/Healthwave ID # _____

Is your child covered under private dental insurance? (not Medicaid or Healthwave) Yes No

*Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



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GraceMed Dental Clinic of Wichita will be conducting a Dental/Oral Health Day on _____ at _____. GraceMed Dental Clinic is a non-profit organization based in Wichita. Their clinic is staffed with licensed Dentists and Registered Dental Hygienists with Extended Care Permits. On _____ their Extended Care Permit Hygienists will be coming to our school to do a free screening. If you don't want your child to be seen, an opt-out is required (see consent form). They are also offering fluoride varnish application to any child whose parent/guardian gives permission. A dental cleaning and sealants are offered to those students who qualify and whose parent/guardian has completed and returned the consent and health history form giving permission for these services. **Qualifications are listed on the back of this form.**

Please read both the front and back side of this form. The services that the Dental Hygienists will be performing are not mandatory, but a service we are offering our students. Please complete and return the form(s) indicating your consent or decline of participation in our Dental/Oral Health Day. Forms are due back no later than _____.

Please note: If your child has Medicaid/Healthwave insurance, GraceMed appreciates being able to file an insurance claim to help offset their expenses. Please include the information on the consent form.

HEALTH HISTORY

Student Name _____ Student Date of Birth _____
Student Grade _____ Teacher Name _____

ANY KNOWN ALLERGIES (check all that apply):

Latex Amoxicillin/Penicillin Other

Please list any other food or drug allergies: _____

MEDICAL HISTORY (check all that apply):

Artificial Heart Valve Artificial Joint Diabetes Congenital Heart Disorder Heart Murmur
 Heart Trouble/Disease Mitral Valve Prolapse Hepatitis Seizure Disorder Asthma

Please list any other Medical Conditions/Surgeries/Hospitalizations with dates: _____

Medications your child is currently taking: _____

Does your child have Special Health Care Needs? Yes No

GraceMed will treat all patient information as protected health information (PHI) under HIPPA regulations, exchanging the PHI only with personnel employed by GraceMed and the facility/school who are responsible for medical treatment and/or record review.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

