



# Connecticut Dental Health Partnership PROVIDER PARTNER NEWSLETTER

## ORTHODONTIC SCORING REVIEW

We will be holding a meeting to review the **SALZMANN SCORING FOR ORTHODONTIC CASES** on **May 18th at 8:30 am.**

The location for this event will be in our Farmington office located at **195 Scott Swamp Road, Farmington CT.**

We will have one of our orthodontic consultants available to answer your questions about the scoring of cases.

*Coffee and bagels will be served.*

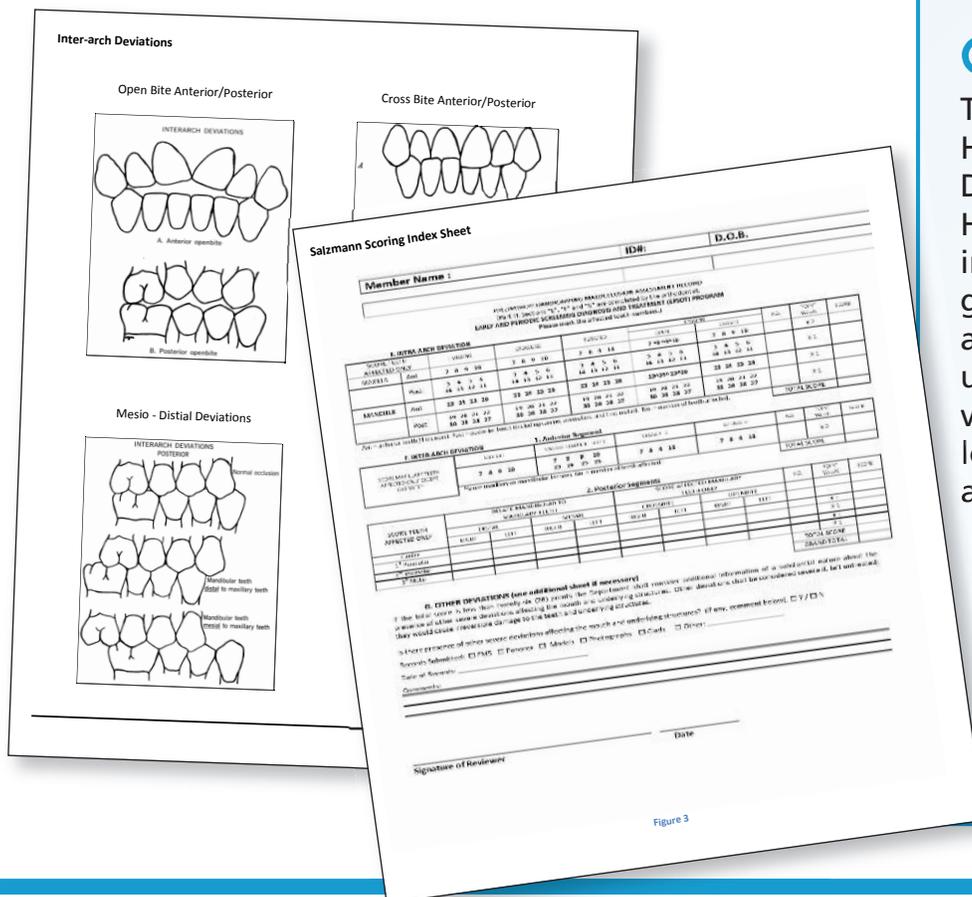
Please call Norma @ 860-507-2319 to reserve a spot.

### About Us

The State of Connecticut's publicly funded dental care programs, HUSKY A, HUSKY B, HUSKY C and HUSKY D now have been combined into one dental plan: the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership- the Dental Plan for HUSKY Health (CTDHP). CTDHP oversees the dental plan for the Department of Social Services (DSS) HUSKY Health program which covers more than 800,000 residents in Connecticut.

### CTDHP Website

The Connecticut Dental Health Partnership, the Dental Plan for HUSKY Health has a useful and informative website. Please go to [www.CTDHP.com](http://www.CTDHP.com) to access provider resources, to upload prior authorizations, verify client history, download educational materials and much more!



# Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Dental Health in Children

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**Childhood experiences**, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on an individual's development and subsequent emotional, cognitive, social and biological function. As a result, early childhood experiences are an important public health issue. Much of the foundational research in this area has been referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Adverse Childhood Experiences have been linked to:

- **risky health behaviors**
- **chronic health conditions**
- **low life potential**
- **early death**

As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for these outcomes. Health professionals who interact with children and their families have a new responsibility to assess and identify possible adversities. This responsibility has been recognized for a number of years in the dental community through the PANDA (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness) program.

Beginning in the 1990s with the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) studies and with continuing emphasis on the effect of childhood adversities on many aspects of a child's life, it is now known that toxic stress—which is often associated with abuse, neglect and family dysfunction — can have lifelong effects on health.<sup>1</sup> These experiences range from physical, emotional, or sexual abuse to parental divorce or the incarceration of a parent or guardian.

A new report in the journal of Community

Dentistry Oral and Epidemiology has given strong evidence supporting claims that socioeconomic factors factor in the oral health of children, labeling them a 'toxic stress' on dental health.<sup>2</sup>

The research found that children who were exposed to negative experiences, were more than twice as likely to develop gum disease and tooth decay, as well as suffer from other conditions such as missing teeth or toothache.<sup>3</sup> These negative experiences included parental divorce, a parent spending time in jail, household income and education of the parent, exposure to domestic violence, witness to drug and alcohol abuse and living with someone who suffers from mental illness, suicidal tendencies or depression.

It is important to consider dental health in addition to other health areas as contributing factors to the link between adversities and increased risk for serious health issues, not only in childhood, but continuing into adult life.<sup>4</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has been focusing its efforts on early childhood development for many years, and is now adding resources to help pediatricians, dentists, and other professionals who work with children to identify and provide community and professional services to families with children who otherwise might have an unhealthy future.<sup>5</sup>

Stronger connections between the medical home, the dental home and others will help families find the support they need. Together, pediatricians and dentists can use their position as trusted resources for children to identify children at risk, increasing the chance that children's adverse

**HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?**

**When you're looking for:**

- Food
- Shelter
- Child Care
- Crisis Intervention
- Disability Services
- Drug/Alcohol Programs
- Energy Assistance
- Health Care
- Job Training
- Legal Assistance
- Literacy Classes
- Parenting Programs
- Senior Services
- Support Groups
- Tax Assistance
- Transportation
- Veteran's Services

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Connecticut  
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**www.211ct.org  
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United Way 2-1-1 can help. Whether by phone or online, 2-1-1 will connect you to health and human services resources for everyday needs and in times of crisis.

2-1-1 is free of charge, open 24/7 all year and has professionally-trained contact specialists to assess caller's needs with translation services available in many languages.

2-1-1 is certified by the American Association of Suicidology for crisis intervention and accredited by the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems.

**CONNECT WITH HELP AT  
WWW.211CT.ORG  
OR DIAL 2-1-1**

Out-of-State: 1-800-203-1111  
TTY: 800-671-0737

United Way  2-1-1 is supported by the State of Connecticut and Connecticut United Way

situations might be identified early enough to be remediated.

One way to identify children at risk and to foster resiliency, will be the strengthening of medical and dental homes. Exchange of information between a child's dentist and pediatrician can expand the reach of the "health home," increasing the chances for finding adversities that will link professional and community-based resources.

Connecticut resources include the services of CT 2-1-1. Information for professionals and families can be found by calling 2-1-1 or by

visiting their website at [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org). United Way 2-1-1 is a free health and human service information and referral helpline. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Connecticut Dental Health partnership's mission is to improve the oral health of our clients by quality focused collaboration with our provider, community and government partners. If you have any questions regarding this project please email Leigh-Lynn Vitukinas, RDH, MSDH – Outreach Coordinator at [leigh.vitukinas@ctdhp.com](mailto:leigh.vitukinas@ctdhp.com).

## References

- 1 *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol*. 2015 Jun;43(3):193-9. doi: 10.1111/cdoe.12137. Epub 2014 Nov 21.
- 2 "Fact Sheet: Adverse Childhood Experiences and the Well-Being of Adolescents." Child Trends. N.p., 30 July 2014. Web. 26 Feb. 2016.
- 3 Flaherty EG, et al. "Effect of Early Childhood Adversity on Child Health. - PubMed - NCBI." N.p., n.d. <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17146020>>. 26 Feb. 2016.
- 4 Kalmakis, Karen A., and Genevieve E. Chandler. "Adverse Childhood Experiences: Towards a Clear Conceptual Meaning." *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 70.7 (2014): 1489–1501. [onlinelibrary.wiley.com](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com).
- 5 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- 6 [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org)

# A Guide for Endodontic Prior Authorization

The steps below should help guide an office through the Prior Authorization/Post Review process for endodontic care.

1. Verify the patient is eligible. You can do this online at [www.CTDSSMAP.com](http://www.CTDSSMAP.com) or by calling **1-855-CT-DENTAL**.
2. Examine the patient to determine the oral health status of the patient. It is especially important to make note of the patients missing teeth and periodontal health.
3. Go to chapter 6 in the CTDHP provider manual located at [www.CTDHP.com](http://www.CTDHP.com) which will tell you how to submit a prior authorization request.
4. If you have digital x-rays you can submit your PA/PR electronically. Follow the directions outlined in Chapter 6. If you do not have digital x-rays follow the directions for the mail.
5. Identify the tooth that needs to be treated and follow the decision tree to determine if the tooth qualifies. If you have any questions about the tooth qualifying you can call Prior Authorization line for assistance at **1-888-445-6665**.
6. If it is clear that the tooth qualifies for treatment the provider may treat the client and submit the required information including post-op x-rays to the Prior-Authorization department for review and authorization. If you are submitting a post review please include the date of service on the claim form. If you need a reference for the "material that needs to be submitted with the authorization please refer to the benefit grid located under: Forms and Materials/Provider Reference Materials at [www.CTDHP.com](http://www.CTDHP.com).
7. After the Authorization is processed you can submit the claim to DXC as you would any other claim.