



# HELPING CHILDREN STAY HEALTHY

## By Improving Oral Health Care In Medicaid Children

### Improving Access Through Case Management Referral

Alabama's Patient 1st program requires that Medicaid recipients understand the importance of dental care and how to use the dental health care system. Care coordinators in the patient's county of residence can complement the dental services of your practice by working with patients needing additional assistance.

#### Who Provides Case Management Services?

#### What Do They Do?

Patient 1st case management services are provided by licensed social workers and nurses with special training and experience. These professionals work in the home or other community settings to assist the patient in meeting the requirement of a mutually developed plan of care.

#### 1st Look Program

The 1st Look Program is a collaborative effort of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Alabama Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Pediatric providers and their clinical staff who will be applying varnishes and performing risk assessments, must complete the Medicaid-approved training program

and pass the post-test. Only trained and certified 1st Look providers will receive reimbursement for oral exam code D0145, and fluoride varnish application code D1206. All children 6 to 36 months of age who are assessed as high risk and do not already have a dental home qualify for fluoride varnish application. These children must be referred to a dentist.

#### Patient 1st Provider Referrals

1st Look providers are required to refer patients who have at least two high risk indicators to a Patient 1st Care Coordinator to establish a dental home.

#### Dental Provider Referrals

Referrals should be limited to "special cases" only. These include but are not limited to children with special needs who require follow-up care, children needing assistance with referral for specialty care, and missed appointments for children lost to follow-up during treatments such as root canals.

#### How To Refer Patients

Contact a Patient 1st Care Coordinator at the local county health department. The list of coordinators is located on the Patient 1st page of Medicaid's website [www.medicaid.alabama.gov](http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov).

