Oral Health Information Technology Assessment

Clinic site: _____

Electronic health record (EHR) vendor: _____

There are two types of health information technology (HIT) tools that assist in oral health integration.

1. User interface changes:

    a. Data entry.

    b. Decision support.

2. Reporting.

To be of maximum utility in this work, the HIT system must be modifiable, and the organization must be willing to authorize and prioritize the work.

Required features	Technical capability to modify the EHR	Organizational willingness to modify the EHR
User interface changes: • Data entry • Alert to care team that oral health assessment is due	• Access to programming • Someone capable of programming changes	• Organizational priority • Adequate resources • Collaboration between care team and HIT
Population reporting: • Definition of target population • Point prevalence reports • Numerators and denominators by clinician • Run charts	• Reporting data base • Query writing software • Database analyst to write queries • Clinician/quality improvement (QI) team for report validation	• Organizational priority • Resources allocated • Collaboration between QI and HIT to ensure report methodology supports population reporting

User interface modification technical requirements

Can the user interface be modified to accept new data entry fields as structured data?

ASK: Questions   Y/N _____

LOOK: Exam findings   Y/N _____

ACT: Order set   Y/N _____

Is there someone who knows how to program the changes?   Y/N _____

User interface organizational requirements

Is the change authorized?   Y/N _____

Is this an organizational priority?   Y/N _____

Name of clinician:_____

Name of programmer:_____

Population reporting technical requirements

Are the clinical data in a reporting database?   Y/N _____

Is there query writing software?   Y/N _____

Is there someone who can use the software?   Y/N _____

Name of query writer: _____

Name of clinician: _____

Name of QI staff: _____

Population reporting organizational requirements

Are the reports authorized?   Y/N _____

Is this an organizational priority?   Y/N _____

If the HIT system cannot be modified as needed for all of the above functions, it may be necessary to start out with a project of limited scope that focuses on actions that automatically generate structured data such as fluoride varnish in young children or referrals. If the organization cannot commit the resources to report, it may be necessary to find ways to document actions in ways that don't involve the EHR, such as a standalone registry or sampling.

About the Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project

Organized, Evidence-Based Care Supplement: Oral Health Integration joins the Safety Net Medical Home Initiative Implementation Guide Series.

The goal of the Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project was to prepare primary care teams to address oral health and to improve referrals to dentistry through the development and testing of a framework and toolset. The project was administered by Qualis Health and built upon the learnings from 19 field-testing sites in Washington, Oregon, Kansas, Missouri, and Massachusetts, who received implementation support from their primary care association. Organized, Evidence-Based Care Supplement: Oral Health Integration built upon the Oral Health Delivery Framework published in *Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care*, and was informed by the field-testing sites' work, experiences, and feedback. Field-testing sites in Kansas, Massachusetts, and Oregon also received technical assistance from their state's primary care association.

The Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project was sponsored by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, a consortium of funders and health professionals who share a vision that dental disease can be eradicated, and funded by the DentaQuest Foundation, the REACH Healthcare Foundation, and the Washington Dental Service Foundation.

For more information about the project sponsors and funders, refer to:

• National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health: www.niioh.org.

• DentaQuest Foundation: www.dentaquestfoundation.org.

• REACH Healthcare Foundation: www.reachhealth.org.

• Washington Dental Service Foundation: www.deltadentalwa.com/foundation.

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For more information about the Safety Net Medical Home Initiative, refer to www.safetynetmedicalhome.org.