

Team Maureen's Oral HPV Education Program

Dental professionals are likely aware of the role that risk factors such as smoking and alcohol consumption play in oral cancer. However, dedicated, trained dental professionals are under-utilized assets in HPV-related oral cancer prevention.

The Dental HPV Education Program's purpose is to educate dental professionals about the connection between HPV and oral, cervical, and other cancers. Dental professionals are given a presentation and are introduced to tools for talking to patients about the HPV vaccine as a cancer prevention tool.

The goals of the presentation are:

- To increase dental professional's understanding of the connection between HPV and oral cancer
- To increase dental professional's understanding of the role the HPV vaccine plays in cancer prevention
- To provide dental professional's with typical questions and answers around HPV, the vaccine, and oral cancer
- To increase dental professional's comfort discussing HPV and the HPV vaccine with patients
- To increase patient receptiveness to HPV vaccination for their children by planting the seed of HPV's connection to cancer in the non-threatening dental office
- To increase dentists' commitment to oral cancer screenings for all patients by developing an understanding of the increased risk for HPV-related cancer

In addition to presentation to dental professionals, Team Maureen (with expert input from medical and dental professionals across Massachusetts) developed an educational toolkit for distribution to dental practices. These educational tools provide relevant, medically sound, cancer prevention information to help dental professionals positively influence patients to make well-informed oral health and cancer preventive decisions.

The purpose of the Toolkits for Dentists is to offer dental professionals the tools and skill they will need to talk with their patients. We have seen that dental professionals who are knowledgeable about HPV and the HPV vaccine will feel more comfortable discussing HPV with their patients.

The "Toolkit" Includes:

- **Talking Tips:** An informational sheet with advice for starting the conversation with patients about HPV, and answers to common questions
- **Understanding HPV and Cancer at the Dentist:** Brochures for patients on HPV and Cancer
- **Cancer Prevention Office Poster:** A brief poster to display in the office. It also has an insert of the brochure that patients can look for to get more information.

- **Referral tear off note pads:** These note pad sheets can be distributed after a conversation about the HPV vaccine to remind parents to contact their pediatrician.

The toolkit can be downloaded on www.teammaureen.org under dental materials.



Team Maureen's Provider Office HPV Intervention Project

PURPOSE:

The goal of the HPV Intervention project is to determine whether offering educational materials to patients while they are in the provider office, but before seeing their doctor, increases overall HPV vaccination rates.

PREP:

Prior to participation in the intervention study, area medical offices currently administering the HPV vaccine will retrieve their office's general demographic data as well as historical vaccination rate data for the projects qualifying age group.

INTERVENTION:

A student/volunteer/staff member will assist Team Maureen in training doctors and staff on the importance of the HPV vaccine and frequently asked questions. The practice will receive their current vaccination rate data, as well as target vaccination rates. The student/volunteer/staff member and Team Maureen will also provide each practice with educational materials and operating protocols for offering the intervention to qualifying patients. This will include:

- Office instructions for identifying eligible patients by reviewing age and vaccination history of scheduled patients every day
- Office instructions for offering paper resources/directions and wifi-enabled tablet (pre-loaded with resources) to identified patients upon their arrival at the office
- Doctor/Nurse instructions for completion of the "purpose of visit" and "vaccination status" questions on the survey.
- Office instructions for the collection of the surveys for review and analysis

Patients will be offered educational materials in the form of a brochure on HPV and cancer, an iPad/tablet connected to an education page on the Team Maureen website, a reminder app link from the iPad/tablet for vaccine series reminders, a code for a free screening of *Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic* documentary, and a pre/post survey. All of these items will be provided to the office by Team Maureen.

The student/volunteer/staff member will offer technical support to the participating offices throughout the project and results will be offered to participating offices upon conclusion.