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**ORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE INTEGRATION FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV**

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Oral health is essential for overall health and quality of life. Oral health care is especially important for people with HIV. Untreated oral disease may lead to infections, weight loss, malnutrition, and different diseases. Oral diseases impact quality of life (e.g., psycho-social problems and limited career opportunities). Oral health is one of the top unmet needs for people with HIV who receive services through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.

Virtually all recipients/providers refer out for some procedures. While choosing provider we should look for insurance compatibility and welcoming stigma-free environment. We can find them at local and state dental societies/associations, dental and dental hygiene school, dental service organizations, social service programs that assist low-income individuals, searchable databases.

Hudson River HealthCare Ryan White Dental Program mission is to increase access to comprehensive primary and preventive health care and to improve the health status of our community, especially for the underserved and vulnerable. Hudson River Health Care Dental Program has 25 year history of providing dental care to persons with HIV. Dental services co-located in 11 of Hudson River Health Care Health Centers.

Ryan White Dental Care Team includes HIV Primary Care Personnel, HIV Care Manager, Dentist, Dental Care Manager.

HIV Specialists provide comprehensive HIV primary care in accordance with the HIV Standards of Care.

Care coordination responsibilities of the HIV Care Manager are: initial and on-going assessments to identify barriers to care & referrals for community service, insurance application/navigation, referral management, coordination of patient care with Dental Care Manager, adherence education, risk reduction.

Responsibilities of the Dentist are as follows: cleanings every 6 months, dental examination, education, case conference, referral to dental specialty care (if necessary), treatment adherence.

Responsibilities of the Dental Care Manager: determine Ryan White eligibility, coordinate dental specialty referrals, provide dental and adherence education, resolve dental care issue, conduct monthly dental case conference and coordination of HIV education for dentists.

Role of the Patient. His responsibilities are: provide Ryan White eligibility information, adherence, communicate questions and concerns, provide feedback/dental survey, self-management.

Thus, thanks to the coordinated work of dental care activists, HIV patients can receive timely and high-quality care on an equal basis with uninfected people.