

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner

Dannel Malloy
Governor

October 14, 2014

Dear Dental Professional:

As a health care professional who counsels patients on lifestyle factors that affect oral health and overall health, you are in a prime position to deliver tobacco cessation counseling and help your patients become tobacco free with the cessation programs that are available in Connecticut. Currently in Connecticut, 18.4% of adults use tobacco, and over 19% of high school students report using tobacco products.*

People are more likely to quit when advised by a health care provider. Therefore, I encourage you to take a proactive approach to eliminate tobacco use by following “the 5 A’s” recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when screening patients:

1. Ask patients about tobacco use at every visit
2. Advise every tobacco user to quit
3. Assess patients’ readiness to quit
4. Assist patients in quitting
5. Arrange for follow up contact

Enclosed you will find tools and resources developed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to assist in screening and counseling patients who use tobacco products:

- Posters in English and Spanish featuring CDC’s Tips from former smokers’ campaign (Tips)
- Easels for the CT Quitline wallet cards (English and Spanish)
- Fact sheet describing the CT Quitline (a quick reference for the dental professional)
- “What happens when you call the CT Quitline” (handout for patients)
- “When you’re Ready” (a tear-off handout for patients)
- Current Methods of Tobacco Cessation Treatment
- Connecticut Quitline Fax Referral Forms

In addition to the enclosed materials, the CDC has developed resources for dental professionals to help their patients become and remain tobacco-free. These resources highlight the new Tips campaign linking smoking to periodontal disease. There is also training videos on tobacco cessation interventions and access to an American Dental Association certified online dental course that will help you learn how to help your patients in their cessation efforts. These can be accessed by going to the following link <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/partners/health/dental/>.

Effective October 1, 2014, dental providers who participate in the state Medicaid/HUSKY Health program can be reimbursed for tobacco cessation counseling. For more information regarding the tobacco cessation



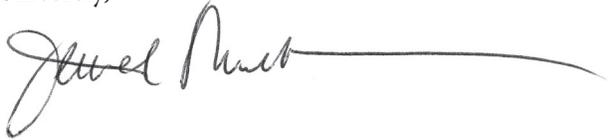
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counseling procedure code and other resources, please visit the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership's website at www.ctdhp.com.

Should you have any questions or if you would like more information or materials, please call the Office of Oral Health at 860-509-8074 or visit the Office of Oral Health's webpage at www.ct.gov/dph/oralhealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jewel Mullen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H. M.P.A.
Commissioner

* Please visit the DPH Tobacco Program website at http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3137&q=388070&dphNav=|&dphNav_GID=1841 for more information.