First Dental Home Visits – Required Elements

The Initial First Dental Home Visit

The initial First Dental Home (FDH) visit provides an introduction of the child and parent/guardian to the dental provider, the provider’s staff, and the dental office’s physical location and layout. This first visit includes all of the following services:

- Completion of oral health questionnaire by the parent/guardian.
- The dental risk assessment questionnaire by the dentist or a member of the dentist’s staff.
- Review of the child’s health history.
- Review of the dental history for the:
  - child/patient
  - primary caregiver, and
  - any siblings.
- An initial comprehensive oral evaluation performed by the FDH trained dentist.
- Caries risk assessment performed by the FDH trained dentist.
- Toothbrush prophylaxis (rubber cup prophylaxis if indicated due to stain, etc.).
- Topical fluoride varnish application (on all erupted teeth).
- Dental anticipatory guidance provided to the parent/guardian:
  - oral hygiene instructions
  - nutritional guidance
  - oral developmental milestones for the child.
- Establishment of a dental recall schedule.
- Any necessary referral to dental specialists.

Please note: For a dental visit to qualify as a First Dental Home visit, at least one parent or guardian must be in the treatment room with the child during the entire visit and all required components of the visit must be completed.

Restraint of the child during a First Dental Home visit using a papoose board or similar restraint is not appropriate. If restraint of this nature is utilized, the visit cannot be billed as a First Dental Home visit.

The Oral Health and Dental Risk Assessment questionnaires are available to download as a PDF document from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Oral Health Program website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/dental. Click on “First Dental Home”. Then click on “Materials”. If the dental provider is already utilizing similar questionnaires within their practice, the provider may continue to utilize these questionnaires.
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All Subsequent First Dental Home Visits

After completion of the initial First Dental Home visit, the child is placed on a recall schedule based on the caries risk assessment results. At subsequent First Dental Home visits, all of the following services must be performed:

- Review and update of the child’s health history.
- Review and update of the dental history for the:
  - child/patient
  - primary caregiver, and
  - any siblings.
- Periodic oral evaluation performed by the FDH trained dentist.
- Updated caries risk assessment performed by the FDH trained dentist.
- Toothbrush prophylaxis (rubber cup prophylaxis if indicated due to stain, etc.).
- Topical fluoride varnish application (on all erupted teeth).
- Dental anticipatory guidance provided to the parent/guardian.
  - oral hygiene instructions
  - nutritional guidance
  - oral developmental milestones for the child
- Confirmation of the child’s dental recall schedule, based on the results of the updated caries risk assessment.
- Any necessary referral to dental specialists.

Please note: For a dental visit to qualify as a First Dental Home visit, at least one parent or guardian must be in the treatment room with the child during the entire visit and all required components of the visit must be completed.

Restraint of the child during a First Dental Home visit using a papoose board or similar restraint is not appropriate. If restraint of this nature is utilized, the visit cannot be billed as a FDH visit.