

# Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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**Practice Number:** 36009  
**Submitted By:** North Carolina Division of Public Health, Oral Health Section  
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## Collaborative Practice Framework for Perinatal Oral Health Improvement

### What is Being Done:

In December 2018, the North Carolina Oral Health Section (OHS) launched Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: North Carolina Collaborative Practice Framework. This Framework serves as guidance to educate medical prenatal healthcare providers and dental providers on the importance and the safety of perinatal oral health care. This tool is being disseminated to providers across North Carolina (NC) who care for pregnant women. Quick Reference Guides were developed in conjunction with the framework for providers to use in the clinical setting. These Guides not only highlight provider services during the appointment, but also the shared oral health messages, which support oral health literacy for the pregnant patient.

### Who is Doing This and Why:

The NC Division of Public Health convened a Perinatal Oral Health (POH) Task Force in 2016 to improve oral health during pregnancy, considering that this could positively impact our state's infant mortality rate. Charged with developing state practice guidance for prenatal oral healthcare, the Task Force elected to use the Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement as the basis for this guidance.

### Associated Costs:

The cost of printing is the primary cost associated with developing the Framework and Quick Reference Guides.

\$1,780.00 for printing the Framework

\$5,564.00 for printing laminated Quick Reference Guides

### Outcomes Achieved:

The Framework was successfully launched to health care professionals at the NC Public Health Association Conference during an interprofessional panel discussion including medical and dental providers. A Framework dissemination plan is currently being implemented.

### Lessons Learned:

**Positive:** As the Framework was being developed, the significance of collaborating with diverse partners became apparent. The Framework is the NC adoption of the National Consensus Statement, therefore, we conferred with the authors of the original Consensus Statement. It is important to obtain group consensus on the content of a new document and take time to review everything before finalizing the guidance tool.

**Negative:** We did not have any negative experiences during the Framework development process.

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