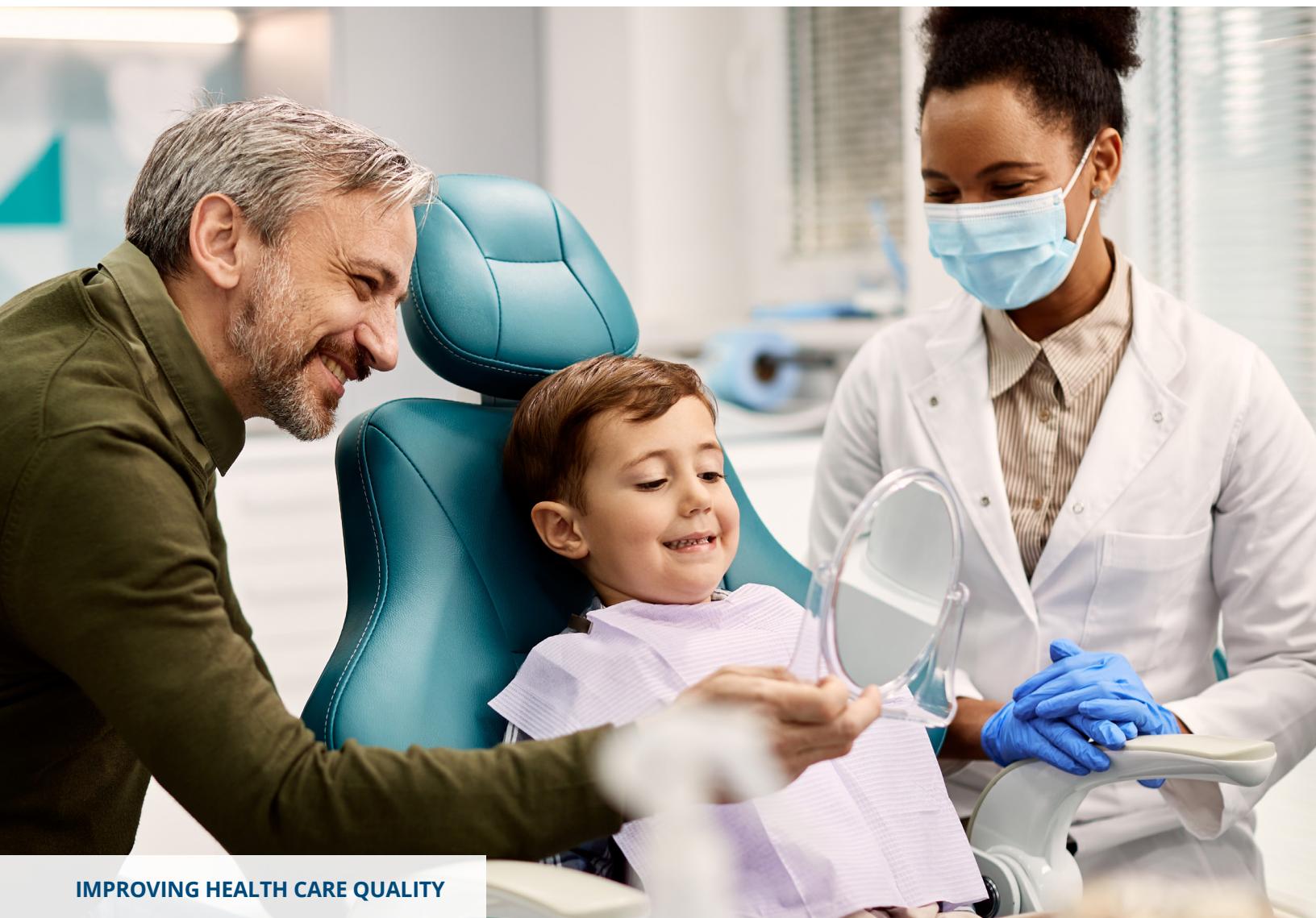




BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois



IMPROVING HEALTH CARE QUALITY

HEDIS Measure: Annual Dental Visit (ADV) for Children and Adolescents

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has developed Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures as a tool for performance improvement. We collect HEDIS data from our contracted providers to measure and improve the quality of care our members receive.

The NCQA recommends tracking **annual dental visits with a dental practitioner**, a HEDIS measure, for our members between the **ages of 2 and 20 years of age**, as of December 31 of the measurement year.

Please refer our members to a participating, qualifying dental provider, if they do not already have one. Once the dental provider submits our member's claim, the HEDIS annual dental visit will be documented.

HEDIS measure requirements

- A dental visit must be completed by December 31 of the measurement year
- Chart documentation should include the date of services for the annual dental visit
- Dental visit must be completed by a dental practitioner, which is defined as:
 - Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)
 - Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)
 - Certified & Licensed Dental Hygienist

According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD), tooth decay can be prevented and even reversed. The AAPD makes the following recommendations:

- Establish a dental home; have an ongoing relationship between a pediatric dentist, if available, and patient family that includes all aspects of oral health¹
- Find your dental home no later than your child's first birthday or when their first tooth appears and no later than 12 months of age¹
- Brush your child's teeth for two minutes, two times a day, and floss as soon as the teeth start touching¹
- Supervise your young child's toothbrushing²



1. American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. (n.d.) A National Children's Dental Health Month Letter from AAPD President Dr. Donly. <https://mouthmonsters.mychildrensteeth.org/a-national-childrens-dental-health-month-letter-from-aapd-president-dr-donly/>

2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Call To Action To Promote Oral Health, 2003. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK47472/>

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