

Pediatric and General Dentist Attitudes Toward Transitioning Care for Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs

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Introduction

14.1 million

U.S. children with Special Health Care Needs (SHCNs)[1]

2:1

Odds of having unmet oral health needs[2]

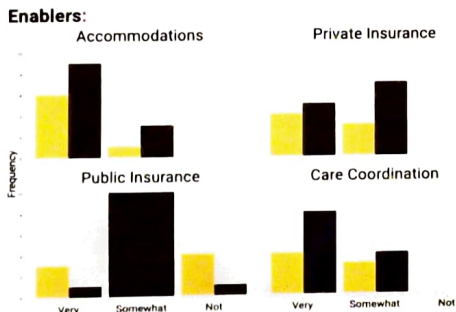
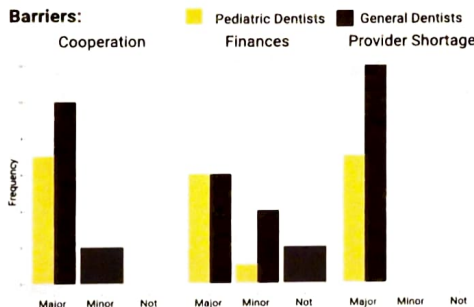
- **Health care transition** - "The purposeful, planned movement of adolescents and young adults with chronic physical and medical conditions from child-centered to adult-oriented health care systems." [3]
- **Goals of transitions:**
 - Prevention and early intervention
 - Care appropriate to age / complexity
 - Independent decision-making
- "A complex and, often, disorganized process." [4]
- **Objective:** Explore attitudes among pediatric and general dentists toward dental care transition for adolescents with special health care needs.

Methods

- Anonymous, 22-item Qualtrics survey was adapted from previous research [5,6]
- Distributed via email to faculty and residents practicing pediatric or general dentistry at University of Iowa College of Dentistry.
- Statistical Analysis
 - Descriptive statistics
 - Qualitative analysis of free responses

Results

- Responses from 7 Pediatric dentists; 12 General dentists.
- Key finding: Transition process must be driven by patient-specific factors rather than due to "aging out" of the pediatric dental home.



Most important quality that adolescents with SHCNs may look for in a general dentist?



Summary of Findings

- Pediatric and general dentists broadly agreed on the importance of dental care transition for patient-centered care.
- Recommendations:
 - Train personnel
 - Enhance reimbursement
 - Fund home & community-based services
 - Facilitate care coordination

References

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