



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Moralo Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines



Sama-Sama
sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

July 31, 2000

DECS MEMORANDUM
No. 345, s. 2000

INTENSIFYING ORAL CARE PROMOTION IN SCHOOLS

To: Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents

1. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports, through the Health and Nutrition Center, intensifies oral care promotion to improve the oral health status of the school populace. Dental health targets for CY 2000 – 2001 shall focus on the following:

- a. oral examination of 95-100% pre-school and Grade I pupils; 70% of Grades II-VI pupils; and 50% of 1st year high school students;
- b. conduct of toothbrushing drills
- c. restoration of decayed 1st permanent molars through the Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART);
- d. weekly sodium fluoride mouthrinsing of all Grade I-VI pupils; and
- e. expansion of the Oral Health Education "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures (BSBF)" Program to all divisions.

2. The enabling mechanism such as the provision of dental supplies (glass ionomer and NaF1 powder), BSBF Modules for Grades I-III, orientation and training of implementors, among others, is put in place so as to attain targets. The guidelines are presented in detail on the enclosure.

3. Regional directors and school administrators are enjoined to extend full administrative support to the effective promotion of oral care in the schools. All school dentists are expected to deliver effective oral care to the clientele and to intensify dental health education in their respective areas. Supervising dentists and dentists-in-charge shall be held accountable for the attainment of program targets. The school dental personnel are likewise expected to source additional local funds for travel expenses and dental supplies to ensure wider service coverage.

4. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum is desired.

Andrew Gonzalez
ANDREW GONZALEZ, FSC
Secretary

Encl.:

As stated

Reference: DECS Memorandum: No. 337, s. 1999

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

~~HEALTH EDUCATION~~
~~PROJECTS~~

Guidelines for Oral Care Promotion

Introduction :

Dental caries has been a major oral health problem among school children. The proportion of affected pupils increases progressively with age. Dental decay starts among the school entrants with temporary dentition. This dental situation influences the development of dental caries on permanent dentition as it erupts, thus by the time the children reach Grade VI, six out of ten have decay on their permanent teeth. It was noted that the deteriorating dental condition of the elementary school children was ranked first among the ten common ailments that affect them.

Dental programs/projects have been implemented to improve the school children's oral health; however, reaching out to the entire school populace is just too much to aim for, because of limited resources. Nonetheless, the school dental personnel attempt to address the health needs of the school children by strategizing collective actions to improve oral health.

Starting CY 2000-2001, efforts shall be focused on specific concerns in order to effect a significant impact on the dental health status of the child. It is in this context that the guidelines on each focal activity are issued.

Focus #1 : Oral examination of 95-100% Pre-school and Grade I pupils, 70% of Grade II-VI pupils, and 50% of 1st year High School students.

- Conduct oral examination to 95-100% of Pre-schoolers and Grade -I pupils, 70% of Grade-II-VI pupils, and 50% 1st year High School Students by the Dentist-in-charge, and dentists, from June-September every year.
- Conduct chairside dental health instruction by the dentists and dental aides.

Focus #2 : **Conduct of toothbrushing drills**

- Encourage all children to bring to class a toothbrush and toothpaste. This should be advocated to the parents.
- Schedule a toothbrushing drill every morning, after recess time or before classes in the morning/afternoon.
- Demonstrate the proper way of toothbrushing.
- Supervise toothbrushing drills.
- Provide toothbrushing trough in every school and a toothbrush rack in every classroom.

- Monitor the conduct of toothbrushing drills by the dentists and dental aides during their school visits

Focus #3 : Restoration of decayed 1st permanent molars through the Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART)

- Train additional division implementors on Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART).
- Provide ART supplies to ensure continuity of the project.
- Identify pupils with decayed permanent molars to be given ART.
- Provide dental service to the identified pupils to prevent caries/restore decayed teeth.

Focus #4 : Weekly Sodium Fluoride Mouthrinsing of all Grade I-VI pupils

- Provide sodium fluoride supplies by the HNC.
- Encourage the Schools Division Superintendent to allocate funds for the sodium fluoride supplies to sustain the activity.
- Designate a clinic teacher to take charge of the storage and mixture of the sodium fluoride solution.
- Conduct mouthrinsing sessions once a week under the direct supervision of school dentists, dental aides, and trained teachers.

Focus #5 : Expansion of "Bright Smiles, and Bright Futures"(BSBF) Program

- Provide funds for the orientation of additional schools involved on BSBF in the program .
- Conduct Pre and Post tests in the expansion schools to assess the effectiveness of the program.
- Conduct periodic monitoring by the Regional Supervising Dentist, ES-II, Dentist-in-charge and ES-I.
- See to it that the IBC materials and supplies are fully utilized by the teachers and pupils.
- Conduct daily toothbrushing drills in the BSBF implementing schools.
- Prepare and submit progress reports to the regional office and HNC