



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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February 9, 2017

Phyllis Rocco
North Carolina Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators
N.C. Division of Public Health
Raleigh, NC

Dear Phyllis Rocco,

In 2016, the NC Division of Public Health, focusing on better birth outcomes and the reduction of infant mortality, convened North Carolina's first Perinatal Oral Health Task Force. The Task Force includes leaders in dental public health practice and leaders in State-funded medical and dental education institutions--East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina. One of the goals of the task force is to advance health care providers' efforts to improve maternal and child oral health. Over the past decade, a dozen states have developed optimal oral health care of pregnant women guidelines for clinical care providers. In its first year, our task force unanimously agreed to adopt the Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement as North Carolina's practice guidelines for oral health care for pregnant women. The National Consensus Statement resulted from an expert workgroup meeting convened by the Health Resources and Services Administration in collaboration with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Dental Association, and the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center held on October 18, 2011, in Washington, DC.

Successful adoption of practice guidelines requires support from the myriad of medical and dental providers across the state. The Task Force encourages as many to be engaged as possible in the review process. To that end, this letter is being sent to request leadership within your organization review the National Consensus Statement and confirm this document as the Perinatal Oral Health Practice Guidelines for North Carolina. If your leadership agrees to its adoption, please send a letter of support.

Your participation and support for our N.C. Practice Guidelines is valuable to the Task Force as we work to improve the oral health and overall health of women and children. Our next meeting of the Task Force is April 18th, 2017 from 1:30-3:30pm in the Division of Public Health Board Room. If your organization has concerns, please share them with me, Sarah Tomlinson, by email, so I can share them with the Task Force membership. Additionally, you are welcome to come to the meeting for discussion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sarah Tomlinson, DDS
N.C. Dental Director
Oral Health Section Chief

Kelly Kimple, MD, MPH, FAAP
N.C. Health Director, Acting
Women's and Children's Health Section Chief