9 May 2012

Dear Colleague

The Ministry of Health, the New Zealand Dental Association, the New Zealand Dental Therapists Association, the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Otago, the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences (Oral Health), Auckland University of Technology and the New Zealand Oral Health Clinical Leadership Network have pleasure in offering all oral health professionals who provide oral health care to New Zealand’s children and adolescents a copy of ‘Prevention and Management of Dental Caries in Children; Guidance in Brief.

The Guidance in Brief document was produced by the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme and came to our attention during the lecture tour across New Zealand by Nicola Innes and Daffyd Evans in 2011. The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme kindly granted the Ministry of Health permission to print the Guidance in Brief for distribution to New Zealand dental clinicians. The Ministry, NZDA, NZDTA, the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Otago, the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences (Oral Health), Auckland University of Technology and the New Zealand Oral Health Clinical Leadership Network endorse the Guidance in Brief as an evidence-based resource to inform and guide clinicians in making decisions when working with children and adolescents in New Zealand.

We note there are some differences between the Guidance in Brief and the 2009 New Zealand Guidelines for the Use of Fluorides in the recommendations for fluoride varnish applications and the amount of fluoride toothpaste for children aged 3 to 6 years. The Guidance in Brief recommendations for fluorides do not supersede the recommendations in the New Zealand Guidelines for the Use of Fluorides.

The Ministry has placed a link to the Prevention and Management of Dental Caries in Children; Guidance in Brief document on its website. The 2009 New Zealand Guidelines for the Use of Fluorides document is also available on the Ministry website. Additional information on the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme, including the Full Guidance document and supporting tools can be found at http://www.sdcep.org.uk/?o=2858.
We are confident you will find this excellent resource most helpful for preventing and managing dental caries in your child and adolescent patients.

Yours sincerely

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