



Oral Health Awareness Colorado!

April 7, 2005

Dear Professional:

Emerging research indicates a strong relationship between poor oral health in expectant mothers and pre-term/low birth weight deliveries.

On behalf of the Oral Health Awareness Colorado!, and Oral Health Program of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment we are pleased to send you this packet of information about how "Good Health Starts with a Smart Mouth".

It is our hope that as a prenatal provider, you will take a "first look" in a woman's mouth, and make the recommendation to take care of her teeth and gums to prevent adverse birth outcomes. This packet contains the following to assist you in this effort:

- Pocket flashlight for taking the "first look"
- "Periodontal Disease Association With Poor Birth Outcomes: State of the Science and Policy Implications." An article from the Children's Dental Health Project
- "Oral Health for Pregnant Women" provider reference card, including suggested Oral Health Assessment questions
- Sample brochures to give to the expectant mother as follow-up information
- Evaluation Form to let us know if this is useful and usable
- Ordering Information

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this information packet. It is our hope that you will find these materials of interest and that you will share them with your patients, colleagues and staff. Pregnant moms and their babies deserve nothing less. Feel free to contact both Oral Health Awareness Colorado! and the Oral Health Program at (303) 692-2470.

Sincerely,

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Enclosures

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