CDC Expert Panel on School-based Sealant Programs

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Presentation Overview

- Explain CDC’s decision to convene sealant expert panel
- Describe objectives and aims
- Describe key topics of interest
Rationale for Convening Expert Panel

- Request from ASTDD
  - To assure that guidelines and model protocols reflect the current state of the science
  - To address concerns expressed by some dentists

- Current guidelines last revised in 1994
  - New information available
  - Recent systematic reviews conclude that sealants are effective
Evidence of Effectiveness

Task Force on Community Preventive Services (2002)

- Found strong evidence that school sealant delivery programs are effective in reducing caries
- Strongly recommended school sealant programs to prevent caries
Dental Caries
A Public Health Problem

- Prevalence is still high in children
- Susceptibility of molars is much greater than for other teeth
- Disparities exist with regard to access to dental services
Sealant Expert Panel
Panel Meetings
Atlanta, Georgia

- June 8-9, 2004
- April 1-2, 2005
## Panel Members

**Chair** –
- Gary Rozier, DDS, MPH  
  University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Panelists** –
- Diane Brunson, RDH, MPH  
  Colorado Dept. of Public Health/Environ
- David K. Curtis, DMD  
  American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- Margherita Fontana, DDS, PhD  
  Indiana University School of Dentistry
- Harold Haering, DMD  
  American Dental Association
- Larry Hill, DDS, MPH  
  Cincinnati Health Department
- Jayanth Kumar, DDS, MPH  
  New York State Department of Health

**Panelists (continued)** –
- Jayanth Kumar, DDS, MPH  
  New York State Department of Health
- Mark Mallatt, DDS, MSD  
  Indiana State Department of Health
- Daniel M. Meyer, DDS  
  American Dental Association
- Wanda R. Miller, RN, MA, NCSN, FNASN  
  National Association of School Nurses
- Susan M. Sanzi-Schaedel, RDH, MPH  
  Multnomah County Health Department
- Mark Siegal, DDS, MPH  
  Ohio Department of Health
- Richard Simonsen, DDS, MS  
  Arizona College of Dentistry and Oral Health
- Benedict I. Truman, MD, MPH  
  Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Domenick T. Zero, DDS, MS  
  Indiana University School of Dentistry
Panel Objectives

- To review recent guidelines and best practices protocols for school-based sealant programs
- To ensure that guidelines and best practices protocols reflect current science and support practices that are appropriate in school settings
**Aims**

- **Review recent guidelines**

- **Focused review**
  - Clinical assessment methods of tooth surface status
  - Indications for sealant application based on findings
  - Follow-up methods for clinical evaluation
  - Placement techniques
Evaluate Pit & Fissure Surfaces

- Caries-free
- Questionable
  - Seal
  - Seal
- Enamel Caries
- Dentin Caries
  - Restore

SEAL
If at risk for caries based on an evaluation of:
- pit & fissure morphology
- eruption status
- caries pattern
- patient’s perception/desire for sealant

DO NOT SEAL
Monitor if the individual and teeth are not at risk

Evaluate sealed teeth for sealant integrity and retention, and caries progression.
Aims

- To revise guidelines as needed
- To identify information gaps
- To determine reporting and dissemination strategies
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