

# Medical Home NEWS

## Thought Leader's Corner

Each month, *Medical Home News* asks a panel of industry experts to discuss a topic of interest to the medical home community. To suggest a topic, write to [Editor@MedicalHomeNews.com](mailto:Editor@MedicalHomeNews.com).

***Q. This month's issue contains a "Call to Action" to link oral health and primary care much more closely. How do you do that in your own organization or how would you like to see it done in the medical or health home?"***

"Oral health and primary care can and should be much more closely linked because (1) the population where dental disease is most prevalent does not have adequate access to prevention or treatment and (2) by including oral health in the primary care practice, medical homes can better meet their goals of improved outcomes and lower costs

DentaQuest supports the movement to more closely link oral health and primary care by assisting medical and dental partners with their assessment of integration/collaboration options and related implementation issues. DentaQuest Institute provides its expertise to national audiences and works directly with practices in the design and implementation of collaboration/integration strategies. The National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health invests in (1) learning tools developed by and for primary care clinicians to fill the gap in oral health competencies in education and practice; (2) processes that stimulate engagement by the professions; and (3) documentation of emerging evidence about promising integration/collaboration approaches.

We would like to see medical homes train the primary care team about oral health, design clinical and business flows to embed oral health in the practice, and develop ways to measure the impact of oral health inclusion on health and cost outcomes."



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