

SPECIAL BULLETIN

FOR HIGHMARK HEALTH OPTIONS PROVIDERS

JAN. 14, 2016

ATTN: LONG-TERM SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDERS

ORAL CARE

Inadequate oral care leads to dental caries (tooth decay and cavities), periodontal disease and abscesses. These problems can also lead to systemic diseases, such as:

- System infections
- Diabetes complications
- Respiratory diseases
- Cancer
- Nutritional deficiencies

Home and Community-Based Services and Nursing Facility Staff are responsible for the care of Health Options members who cannot adequately care for themselves. This care helps to ensure that patients receive adequate oral care. It also helps to decrease serious dental problems and risks to their overall health.

Highmark Health Options is committed to providing the best possible care to your patients, our members. In 2016 we will be educating our providers on the importance of oral care and its benefits for all.

Informational forums will be scheduled in the near future to discuss more about this initiative. We encourage you to attend one of these important sessions.

