

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Michigan's Dental RegistrySM (MiDR)?

As part of the Michigan Caries Prevention Program initiative, Altarum, a nonprofit headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, launched a first-of-its-kind statewide oral health public health tool, **Michigan's Dental RegistrySM (MiDR)**. MiDRSM serves to increase the communication and transparency between medical, dental, and social service providers, allowing for better coordination of patient care and continuity of care. In early 2016, MiDRSM was classified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a Meaningful Use Specialized Registry. MiDRSM houses valuable information related to a child's access to and utilization of preventive oral health services in both the medical and dental environments, and currently there are more than 1,500 physicians and dentists that have attested to use the system. Data collected by the tool is submitted to the State of Michigan, creating a valid, reportable data system for monitoring access to pediatric oral health services, and overall dental caries rates.

MiDRSM provides a web-based platform that facilitates communication between medical, dental, and social service providers regarding patient oral health. It is designed to document provided care, and place and track referrals to dentists as needed. MiDRSM partnered with **Delta Dental of Michigan** to offer access to the Healthy Kids Dental network provider database to facilitate innovative care collaboration between medical, dental, and social service care teams.

Who can access MiDRSM?

MiDRSM is available for medical, dental, and social service providers who treat patients under the age of 18.

- Physicians are able to manage preventive oral health services provided in the medical setting and facilitate the referral to a dentist;
- Dentists are able to access information on referred patients and communicate with referring medical providers; and
- Social service providers are able to access previously documented care history information provided by medical and dental providers, and refer children directly to dentists.

How can I access MiDRSM?

MiDRSM is available on MILogin and Allscripts Professional.

For more information on how your clinic can start using MiDRSM email us at MiDR@altarum.org or visit www.MichigansDentalRegistry.org.

Is MiDRSM limited to Medicaid-eligible patients?

Yes, currently due to availability of data, MiDRSM is limited to patients with Medicaid IDs through MILogin. All patients, independent of insurance type, can be looked up when MiDRSM is used through Allscripts Professional.

What is a Specialized Registry?

A Specialized Registry is a CMS classification for a public health registry that collects care data submitted by Eligible Professionals (EPs), Eligible Hospitals (EHs), and/or Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). These registries may be developed and maintained by Public Health Agencies or other organizations. In order to meet the Meaningful Use objective related to the Specialized Registry, EPs must attest to electronically submit data from a Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) following the standards and specifications outlined by the registry. MiDRSM collects pediatric oral health information. More information can be found at the following link: <https://michiganhealthit.org/public-health/michigan-dental-registry-for-healthcare-professionals/>

What is the Michigan Caries Prevention Program?

Altarum, a Michigan non-profit whose mission is to serve the public good by solving complex systems problems to improve human health, has been working to address the oral health disease burden among Michigan children since 2014. With support from a grant from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, and in partnership with Delta Dental of Michigan, the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Michigan Caries Prevention Program (MCP) was launched. The MCP aimed to improve the coordination and delivery of oral health care in both the medical and dental settings and ensure that children receive the preventive care that they need in order to reduce adverse outcomes associated with untreated dental caries. The MCP has been working towards comprehensive oral health and primary care integration throughout Michigan to improve the oral health of more than **1 million** publicly insured children by 2018.

Why children's oral health?

Too many of Michigan's children experience a highly preventable dental disease known as early childhood caries (ECC) – tooth decay among children younger than 6 years of age. Shockingly, more than 40% of children entering kindergarten have at least one cavity, and caries are most severe among low-income, minority preschool-aged children, compounded by limited access to dental care.^{1,2}

The American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures guidelines recommend that children see a physician 11 times by age 2.³ Since many children have not seen a dentist by this age, the timing and frequency of medical checkups means that primary care providers are often the first line of defense in preventing tooth decay. Indeed, these providers can have a significant impact on children's oral health by supporting access to early preventive oral health services (e.g., fluoride varnish applications, oral health screenings, oral health risk assessments, dental home referrals).⁴

¹ American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. (2014). Guideline on infant oral health care. *Clinical Practice Guidelines*, 37(6), 146–150. Retrieved from http://www.aapd.org/media/policies_guidelines/g_infantoralthcare.pdf.

² Grembowski, D., Spiekerman, C., & Milgrom, P. (2007, November). Disparities in regular source of dental care among mothers of Medicaid-enrolled preschool children. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 18 (4), 789–813. Retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC226968/>.

³ American Academy of Pediatrics. (2015). *Recommendations for preventive pediatric health care*. Retrieved from https://www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practicesupport/Periodicity/Periodicity%20Schedule_FINAL.pdf.

⁴ National Academy of State Health Policy. (2008, December). *The role of physicians in children's oral health*. Retrieved from <http://nashp.org/sites/default/files/Fluoride%20Varnish%20Monitor.pdf>.