



Dental Provider,

We are contacting you because your local school district has partnered with MHS Mobile Dental to provide our school-based preventative dental outreach program in their schools this year. The purpose of this correspondence is to make sure that you understand the nature of this program and to ask if your clinic would like to be a referral dentist for patients that visit us in the schools and that may need a referral.

Here are some facts about our program. First, we are approved by the MS State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE) under Board Regulation 61 and have been providing this program to schools in MS since 2009. This program is designed to offer needed preventative oral health care to many of the underserved children in a district. We only see children that return a **signed consent form** regardless of insurance status. This program is definitely **not** a "cattle call" where we see every child in a school. The truth is, we typically get only approximately 20% return of consent forms in most school. Of that 20% of the total school population, about 35%-40% of all those children have no insurance coverage at all and are provided with free preventative dental care. The other 60%-65% of the 20% that we see primarily have Medicaid sponsored coverage and typically are not seeing a dentist on a regular basis. Less than 2% of all our returned consent forms are from patients with private dental insurance. If a patient signs up but is seeing a dentist regularly every 6 months, we will still provide the services for free as we will not be compensated for them.

For the most part, the children participating in this program are not regular patients of any dentist. Our goal is not to become their dental home or get into recall, but to hopefully provide the child preventative services such as an exam, cleaning, fluoride, and sealants (if needed). This provides the parent with a snapshot of any oral health issues that are present with the child. At that time, hopefully the parent will take our information and contact one of the referral dentists in the area to receive further treatment for the child if there was any needed. When they visit the referral dentist, we hope that your office has a discussion with the parent about their dental benefits which allow them to maintain regular dental exams and why they should continue to come to your office rather than our program.

In our experience, there will be parents that sign their children up for our program then schedule an appointment with a local dentist within a short period after visiting MHS Mobile Dental. In those cases, we will provide the dentist our digital x-rays and any other information that may be needed. We try our best to avoid this situation, but it will happen sometimes. MHS Mobile Dental works close with the MSBDE to make sure we are compliance and providing a quality program that offers more access for those under-served families. Mississippi continues to score low grades in dental care and access which is why only 1 in 5 children on Medicaid visit a dentist annually. Our website has many studies and articles that that point to why school-based sealant and preventative dental programs are needed. **MHS gives away approximately \$1,500-\$3,000 on average in free dental care every day we work in the field and have provided over \$6.4 million in free dental services to MS children since 2010.**

If you would like to participate as a referral dentist with this program, please contact MHS Mobile Dental to answer any other questions you may have. In our experiences, if your clinic does not take Medicaid then those clinics typically do not sign up as a referral dentist. The reason for that is that we primarily see uninsured and Medicaid patients and very few children that have private insurance. I have included a Dentist Referral Agreement Form that must be signed and emailed back to us if you would like to be a referring dentist for this program in your area. Please don't hesitate to call with more questions.

MHS Mobile Dental

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