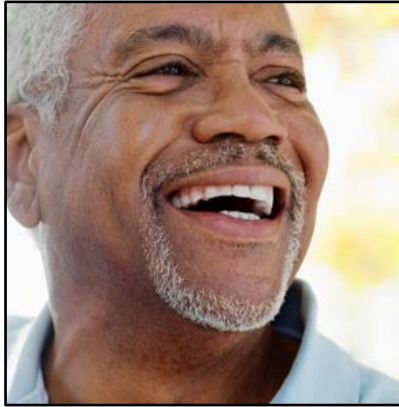# Integrating Oral Care into Primary Care:
Oral Health and Chronic Disease

Oral Health and Chronic Disease (OHCD) is an integration initiative developed to improve the health of those living with chronic disease through improved oral health. This initiative provides tools and recommendations for clinics to implement integration of oral health into medical care.

Since 2000, when the Surgeon General declared oral health as a *silent epidemic,* there has been substantial research connecting poor oral health to poor systemic health. Individuals who are medically compromised or who have disabilities are at greater risk for oral diseases. In turn, oral diseases further jeopardize their health. Periodontal pathogens have been associated with many chronic diseases including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke, respiratory diseases, rheumatoid arthritis, kidney disease, and osteoporosis.

Studies show that an informed and integrated health care delivery system will improve the lives of many Oregonians suffering from chronic disease.

OrOHC's **Oral Health and Chronic Disease** educational resource includes:
- 1 hour in-office training for providers and staff on methods of integrating oral health preventative services into current services
- Oral Health and Chronic Disease Integration Guide, including navigation tools
- Culturally appropriate handouts, exam/waiting room posters and anticipatory guidance that can be shared with patients and caregivers
- Continued support and technical assistance from the Oregon Oral Health Coalition (OrOHC) on systems-based implementation, workflow and clinical instruction

Oral Health and Chronic is one of OrOHC's three oral health initiatives to integrate oral health into primary care across the lifespan. Other resources available are **First Tooth** and **Maternity: Teeth for Two**.

To learn more about **OHCD** and OrOHC's other initiatives visit orohc.org
To host **Oral Health and Chronic Disease** at your site contact OrOHC at orohcinfo@ocdc.net

OREGON
ORAL HEALTH
COALITION
Improving general health through oral health
for all Oregonians