



Tooth Pain is No Joke

Oral diseases are five times more common than asthma in children.

YOUR TOOTH HURTS, you go to the dentist. It's that simple, right?

Wrong. Those with no insurance often leave dental pain untreated, hoping it will go away. In fact, tooth pain is one of the top reasons children miss school in Los Angeles and it is a leading cause of absenteeism at work for the working poor. Left untreated, oral disease can sicken the entire body.

Accessible, Low Cost Dental Care

Oral health is most cost effective when it is preventive. Although there are a number of community clinics throughout L.A. County that now offer low cost dental services, this does not come close to meeting the enormous need. For many, it is still not a reality.

QueensCare Family Clinics have offered low cost dentistry since 1998. Yet, even with new clinics opening and more chairs added, the waiting list for dental care in our City of Angels remains too long.

Reaching Children Before Major Problems Develop

In 2001, QueensCare created a collaborative program with LAUSD, USC School of Dentistry and several foundations to provide Mobile Dental Clinics at the poorest elementary schools in central Los Angeles.

In the last 5 years, 5,372 children have received a dental exam – for most of them it was their first. Of those, 90% were treated for cavities and/or oral surgery. There are now four vans rotating among the schools.

In addition to dental exams, the program provides dental hygiene education and basic supplies to all youngsters at each school. Before this program, many children did not have a toothbrush, or if they had one, it was shared with the rest of the family.

Dental and Primary Healthcare Are Related

Dentists and Primary care doctors at QueensCare are finding that their collaboration results in better health outcomes. That is why we are committed to providing a full spectrum of quality healthcare using the most advanced technologies. We utilize a state-of-the-art dental software system, providing electronic records, and we use Digital Radiography which reduces exposure to radiation by more than 60% – no more plastic tabs in the mouth to take an X-ray!

Yet, despite all these efforts, there remains an overwhelming need in L.A. County for accessible dental care. It is an essential component of our response to the healthcare crisis.

As a faith-based organization, QueensCare strives to provide, directly and with others, accessible healthcare for the uninsured and low-income individuals and families living in Los Angeles County.



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