

# Letters to the Editor, Monday, Aug. 14, 2017

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## Dental and eye health important

I will leave the politics of health care insurance coverage aside and thank the Naples Daily News for the recent editorial reference to the fact that caring for one's vision and oral health is not an afterthought to maintaining good health.

Dental care is not about a glistening smile, it is about meeting a medical need that greatly affects overall health and well-being. Gum disease and other oral health problems have been linked with many physical conditions. The Neighborhood Health Clinic often sees many patients with health issues who can make no further improvement until the dentist has resolved the oral health issues. We are sincerely appreciative of the skill and compassion our volunteer dentists.

Regular vision care can detect vision issues such as cataracts and glaucoma and early detection can prevent sight deterioration. Diabetic retinopathy, the most common diabetic eye disease, can cause visual disturbances and blindness. Thanks to our collaboration with the Lions Club of Naples, the clinic has the use of the club's digital retinopathy system and can now test the many diabetic patients for vision abnormalities and disease.

Yes, dental and vision care are integral to good health and quality of life.

Nancy Lascheid, Naples

Co-founder, The Neighborhood Health Clinic