

Spring 5-22-2015

Improving Dental Care to the Elderly in a Nursing Home

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Recommended Citation

Licavoli, Cara M., "Improving Dental Care to the Elderly in a Nursing Home" (2015). *Master's Projects and Capstones*. 125.
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Preventative Oral Care for the Frail and Elderly

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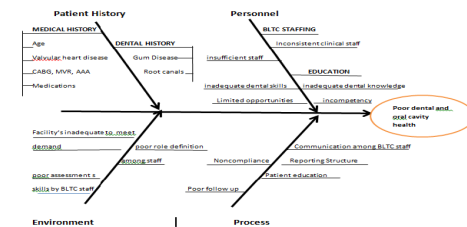
Background:

-Apple Tree Dental (ATD) has collaborated with Peninsula Health Care District (PHCD) to address the needs of the community:

-Based on the 2013 San Mateo County Health Needs Assessment, it was found that the prevalence of community members without dental coverage had increased significantly since the 1998 survey. 32.4 % (representing more than 185,000 county adults) lack dental insurance.

-The microsystem is a long term facility that has 34 acute psychiatric, 100 general acute care and 94 skilled nursing beds.

Causes of poor oral cavity health:



SWOT Analysis

Strengths

Special expertise
Teleradiology services
Well defined patient population
Cost advantages
Technological advantages EHR
Efficiency of service
Relationships with residents
Focus on residents dental needs

Weaknesses

Limited medical procedure capabilities
Marketing deficiencies
Management of staff issues
May need time to reach full potential
New service in the facility
Inflation of fees

Opportunities

New dental technology
New market of service
Education
Lack of dominant competition
Increase of patient compliance
Increase patient satisfaction
Potential availability of statistical and historical data that can be valuable for future research

Threats

Increase cost of supplies and maintenance
Market demand
New regulations
New dental technologies
Difficulty in achieving sustainability of new mobile service
Resistant to change by some residents

OBJECTIVES:

Global Aim: *Reduce infections and further deterioration of oral health care of the frail and elderly. We expect to improve oral assessments, reduce hospital admissions and improve the patients overall health.*

Specific Aim: *We aim to improve dental care of residents at a San Mateo County Nursing home facility by 100% by May 2015.*

METHODS:

Integrating nursing care in oral assessment
Modifying the CAMBRA assessment tool
Educating the staff

Timeline:

The project timeline began in January 2015 and goes through May 2015. Phase 2 will continue after the completion of project.

Timeframe	Tasks
2013- 2016	Apple Tree Dental Group and the Peninsula Health Care District Board propose and implement a Center for Dental Health on the PHCD's campus that includes a building, staff and the development of processes to improve the dental care of residents of nursing home facilities in the San Mateo County.
January 2015	Team meetings to discuss the CNL role in the development of processes to assist in promoting dental health. Development of Fishbone diagram indicating factors to address for project improvement.
February 2015	Determined the microsystem on focus to be the mobile dental health clinic in a nursing home in San Mateo County Team meeting to discuss oral in the elderly, explore evidence
March 2015	Team identified specific dental health assessment. The Caries management by risk assessment (CAMBRA), the Cariscreen caries susceptibility
April 2015	Developed and presented a modified dental assessment tool geared toward nursing to the team. Additional modification
May , 2015	Education of nurses using the dental assessment tool, the nurses at the nursing home facility approximately 3 champion nurses. Implementation of the assessment toll at the microsystem Obtain information regarding staff use of tool via survey Present evaluation outcome to team for further consideration

OUTCOMES:

- *The activities indicated in the timeline may have been delayed.
- * Meetings were held by the CNL student, ATD director and Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) and the PHCD CEO/preceptor.
- *The assessment tool was approved by PHCD and ATD. It was evaluated by 2 nurse champions and modifications were made.
- * The implementation of the tool has not been initiated in the nursing home due to the fact that the nursing facility has not signed the contract with ATD.
- *ATD opened their center and there were 8 staff members attended the short educational session about improving dental care for the elderly in nursing home facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To improve the dental care of the elderly in the nursing home, the CNL will:

- Encourage the utilization of the assessment tool with every admission.
- Continued education of the staff and patient's family,
- Continue gathering feedback and data that would be necessary to determine the effectiveness of the tool.

Acknowledgements:

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