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Improving Dental Care to the Elderly in a Nursing Home

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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.

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:


