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Oral Care in Short Term Units

Objectives:

1. Define QoL Quality of Life
2. Describe the characteristics of plaque formation.
3. Discuss the benefits of an oral health assessment being completed upon admissions.
4. Evaluate how you, as a Physical Therapist or Occupational Therapist can assist your patients while visiting them for their care.
5. Indicate a commitment to remain aware of your professional role in treating a patient in short-term care.

Introduction:

- Do you provide oral hygiene instructions or provide any oral health during your short-term visits?
- If not, how can you implement?
- Do you think oral care is important for your patients in a short-term facility?



Family & Friends in short-term care?

- Are you concerned with your family member getting the care they need and deserve?
- Maybe you can't visit regularly.



Your top priorities

Focusing on the patient's injury or surgery
site.

Quality of Life

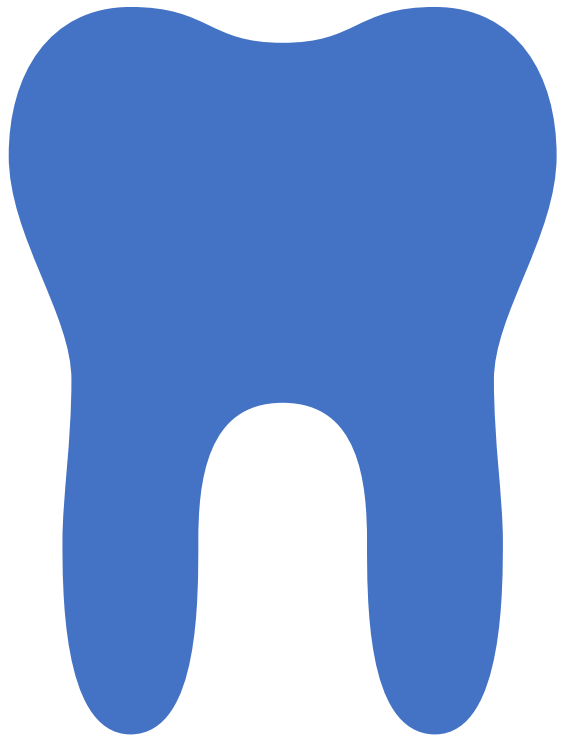
- perception of their situation in life
- culture they live in
- relation to their goals
- standards and concerns
- happiness

Statistics

- QOL is measurable
- wealth
- culture they live in
- perceive their health

Quality of Life Indicators

1. education
2. employment
3. energy
4. environment
5. health
6. human rights
7. income
8. infrastructure
9. nation security
10. public safety
11. recreation
12. shelter



Characteristics of daily oral
care in short-term facilities

What is oral care

- Brushing 2x daily
- Caring for dentures
- Patient's choice of product
- Removing plaque

Why is oral care important?

- Not brushing
- Plaque formation
- Bacteria from plaque
- Preventing illness

Why is oral care neglected in short-term facilities?

- Lack of knowledge
- extensive obstacle
- training

Oral Health Assessment Upon Admissions



Complete Oral Health History

current hygiene practice

bleeding gums

dental decay

dry mouth

removable appliance

oral health supplies

prescription oral care products

Complete an oral exam



Health History
form



Oral health
assessment tool



care plan



supplies if needed

During the Patient's stay



Standard Operating
Procedure (SOP) written



Training

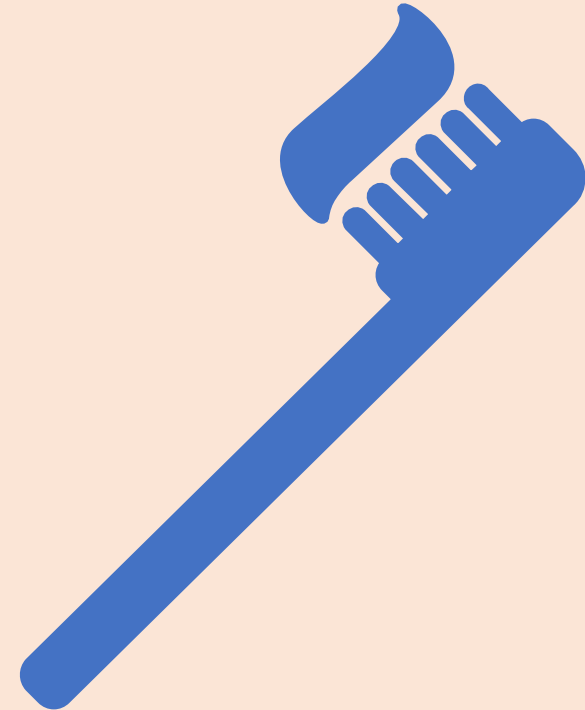


Supplies & frequency of
care



Electronic Health Record
(ERH)

Challenges in assisting
your patient with their oral
hygiene.



Ethical Aspects when aiding in short-term care



do not want
assistance

fatigued

hearing
impaired

ventilated



Patient wants to manage their own dental hygiene needs

- do it themselves
- time of day
- don't want you observing
- gag reflex



Satisfied with their mouth

1. no pain

2. enjoy self-care

3. self sufficient

Barriers of you assisting with oral health



don't want
to be
observed

take up your
time

Not being a
burden.

they think it's an
inconvenience
for you

2. your there for
other reasons

Lack of Knowledge

not trained
enough

make the
conversation

educate them

Summary


- As you can see patients who are in a short-term facility, may not be getting the oral health needs they need. There are many factors that facilities must take into consideration to make sure their staff is properly trained. Also, it's an extra expense to make sure these patients have a dental exam prior to being admitted into the short-term facility. Unfortunately, the patient might not be able to afford that additional cost, and many facilities don't have the expenses to have a dentist on-site to perform dental exams, to determine the patient's oral health status. My goal today was to bring to your attention that many people do not realize the importance of an individual's overall oral health, and how so many health problems can occur from a patient not removing plaque daily. Have a conversation with your patient about their oral health and assist them and educate your patient



Critical Thinking Activity



Discussion Time

- What are your thoughts on incorporating this into your daily practice?
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References

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- Giuliano KK, Baker D, Quinn B. The epidemiology of nonventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia in the United States. *Am J Infect Control*. 2018 Mar;46(3):322-327. doi: 10.1016/j.ajic.2017.09.005. Epub 2017 Oct 16. PMID: 29050905.
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Questions?





Thank you
for your
time!

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