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National *Interprofessional Initiative*  
on Oral Health

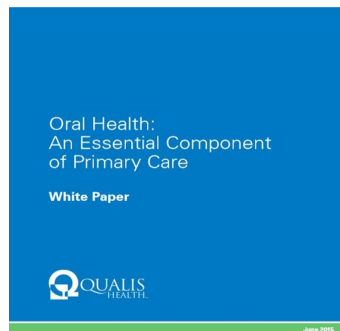
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NYU COLLEGE OF Nursing

## Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care

Qualis Health, one of the nation's leading population healthcare management organizations, has recently released the white paper, *Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care* that highlights the importance of delivering preventive oral healthcare as a component of routine medical care.

Calling on leaders across dentistry, primary care, public health, policy and patient advocacy, the white paper introduces the *Oral Health Delivery Framework*, a method for integrating oral healthcare into primary care practice that capitalizes on primary care providers' existing knowledge, skills and referral structures.



The five-step process requests that primary care teams:

- ◆ **ASK** about oral health risk factors and symptoms of oral disease when completing the health history
- ◆ **LOOK** for signs in the physical exam that indicate oral health risk or active oral disease
- ◆ **DECIDE** on the most appropriate response
- ◆ **ACT** by providing primary care preventative interventions and/or referral for dental treatment
- ◆ **DOCUMENT** findings in the electronic health records as structured data for decision support and population management

Using this approach, team-based primary care practices can readily weave oral healthcare into everyday assessment, diagnosis, treatment and referrals and provide care that is patient-centered and advances the quality and safety of care.

The Oral Health Delivery Framework has been endorsed by leading nursing, dental, medical and public health organizations, and the endorsement list continues to grow! We encourage you read the white paper and join the growing momentum of professional colleagues using the Oral Health Delivery Framework!

## Oral Health at the University of Texas Health Science Center

Every year, the OHNEP program awards grants to exciting academic and clinical programs across the country for innovations in the development of instructional resources that support interprofessional education and collaborative practice in oral-systemic health.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston has been a two-time recipient of OHNEP funding due to its continued leadership role in developing novel educational resources that aim to improve the oral health of our most vulnerable populations.

In 2013, Dr. Deborah Jones, PhD, MS, RN, and her collaborators developed a video module, *Oral Health and Mechanically Ventilated Critically Ill Adults*, that highlights evidence-based best practices for oral hygiene in mechanically ventilated adults and strategies that nursing, dental, medical and respiratory therapy professionals can use to improve oral-systemic outcomes for this high risk patient population. This product is available on MedEd Portal.

In 2015, Dr. Cameron Jeter, PhD and Dr. Deborah Jones, PhD, MS, RN and colleagues developed an educational resource, *Parkinson's Disease and Oral Health*, aimed at interprofessional health care teams comprised of neurologists, nurses, dentists, speech therapists, physical therapists and dieticians to promote the oral care of patients with Parkinson's disease many of whom suffer from poor oral health due to a variety of motor issues, lack of clinician training and insurance coverage.

We encourage you to explore these two fantastic resources posted on the OHNEP website and wish the University of Texas Health Science Center best of luck in any future interprofessional oral health educational endeavors!

Questions? Please contact us at [OHNEP@nyu.edu](mailto:OHNEP@nyu.edu)

## Upcoming Events

**ADEA: Integrating Oral Health and Primary Care: transforming Classrooms and Clinics**

March 14

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**NAPNAP: Pediatric Nurse Practitioners as Frontline Providers of Oral Health Care for Children**

March 17

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**NONPF: The OHNEP Interprofessional Oral health Faculty Toolkit Pediatric Oral Health Interprofessional Clerkship**

April 16

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**ACNM: Midwives as Frontline Providers of Oral Health Care to Pregnant Women and Children**

May 24

## Oral Health Pilot at Florida's Nurse Family Partnership

In 2013, the OHNEP program began an exciting relationship with the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). With 37 state programs, the NFP is an evidence-based nurse home-visiting healthcare program that provides maternal and early childhood risk-reduction health programs for underserved, vulnerable families that yield quantifiable social and health benefits.

Following the success of several virtual and in-person professional development sessions with local NFP programs in NYC, WY, IL, PA and CA, the OHNEP program partnered with the FL NFP Health Choice Network to launch an oral health pilot program in FL that aims to integrate oral health into the home visits of FL NFP nurses to increase oral health access, reduce oral health disparities, and ultimately improve oral health and overall health outcomes for high risk pregnant women, infants and children in the Miami-Dade County.

In October, the OHNEP team led an interactive oral health workshop to all of Florida's NFP nurse home visitors. As a follow up, the OHNEP team is conducting a pilot evaluation study to assess whether oral health knowledge has been incorporated into home visits through teaching best oral health practices to the pregnant women and their children by the NFP nurse home visitors. The results of this exciting pilot study are expected in early Fall.



## IP Clinical Collaboration between Nursing & Dentistry in a FQHC

The University of Michigan School of Nursing and Dental school have implemented an interprofessional clinical immersion opportunity for primary care Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) and dental students. Students collaboratively provide health care for patients in the dental clinical at Hamilton Community Health Network, a Federally Qualified Healthcare Clinic (FQHC) in Flint, Mi.

APRN & dental student pairs work together during 2 to 4 week rotations in a patient-centered interprofessional care model providing care to an underserved population at or below the 200% poverty level. The students work together to provide new patient intake screening, recording health histories, performing systems assessments and providing health care for patients in the dental clinic. This provides an opportunity for the APRN and dental students to learn about each other during actual patient care and to broaden their perspective to improve patient outcomes.

The APRN students spend one week in the dental clinic and then a second week in the medical clinic providing primary care to many of the same patients that were seen in the dental clinic. This provides an opportunity for patients with a health issue identified during the patient intake in the dental clinic to receive treatment in the medical clinic. It also allows for APRN students to identify dental needs while in the medical clinic, that can then be treated in the dental clinic.

Outcomes measured include pre and post assessments of provider perception of interprofessional care, patient perception of care received, patient activation and patient Quality of Life (QOL). Additionally, provider involvement in team based care is assessed using the Interprofessional Collaborator Assessment Rubric (ICAR).

The next phase of this project is to include other health science students, including medicine, pharmacy and social work for a comprehensive health care team. Because of the success of the current model; there are also plans to expand to additional clinics, to increase the opportunity for more students to have an interprofessional clinical experience.

This program is led by Michelle Pardee DNP, FNP-BC, Mark Fitzgerald, DDS, MS, Howard Hamerink, DDS and Wilhelm Piskorowski, DDS.

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