

Refinement of an existing oral-systemic health instructional resource for interprofessional geriatric education

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Introduction

Characteristics of a typical nursing home resident render him or her vulnerable to oral health problems which may contribute to pain, embarrassment, malnutrition and increased risk for serious health problems. Despite the need for assistance with daily oral hygiene, residents often do not receive the help they need for oral care. It is essential that nurses in long term care facilities encourage nursing assistants to provide daily oral care using evidenced based approaches. Without support from nursing leadership, daily oral care will not be accomplished in long term care facilities and the systemic health and quality of life of the residents will suffer.

Existing Oral Health Curricula Modified for Use by Nursing Students at MUSC



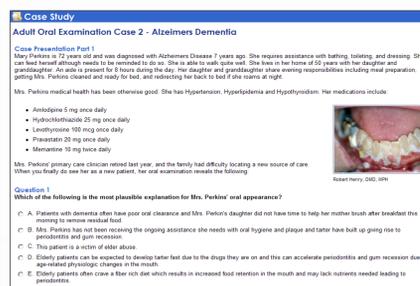
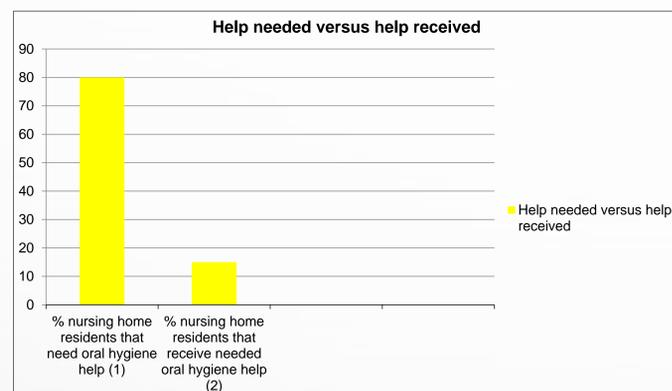
Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum created for Primary Care Clinicians



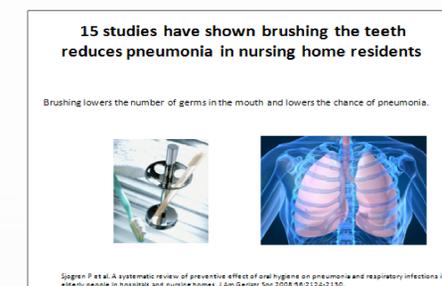
Nursing Home Oral Health Website provides oral health educational resources for long term care nursing staff

What can nurses do to improve oral health and systemic health in long term care residents? Inter-professional care is critical

- Solicit feedback from dentist and hygienist about their recommendations for oral care
- Advocate for daily oral care to nursing assistants, administrators, occupational therapists, and medical directors
- Speak up during resident care conferences about the importance of oral health to overall health

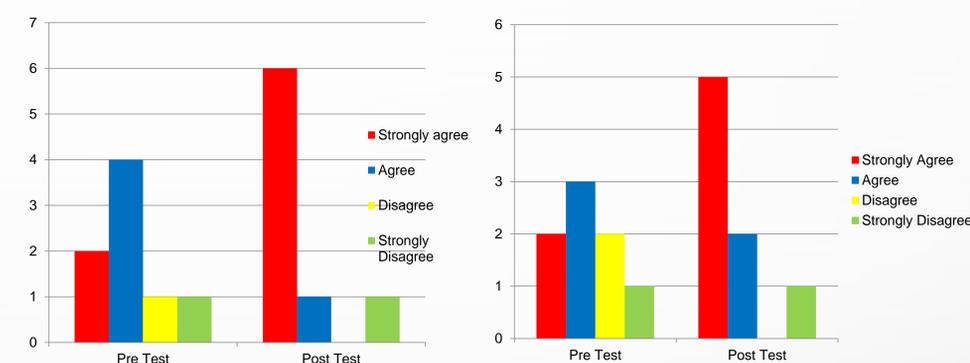


Example from Smiles for Life Curriculum Geriatric Case Studies



Example from Nursing Home Oral Health Website PowerPoint slide

Spring Pilot Results



1. Frenkel HF, et al. Improving oral health in institutionalised elderly people by educating caregivers: a randomised controlled trial. *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 2001;29(4):289-97.
2. Coleman P, Watson NM. Oral care provided by certified nursing assistants in nursing homes. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2006;54(1):138-43.

Objectives

The objective of this project is to create a meaningful resource that could be adopted by schools of nursing across the country. The goal is to provide education that will enable nursing students to:

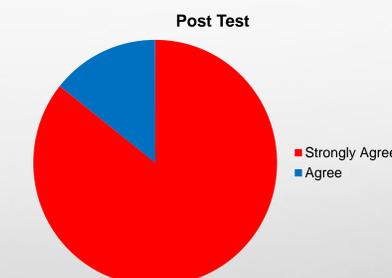
- Perform appropriate oral screenings
- Refer residents to a dental professional when appropriate
- Identify whether oral hygiene has been performed in a long term care resident
- Describe strategies to overcome care resistance
- Utilize evidenced based techniques for oral hygiene care
- Advocate for oral care during resident care conferences

Methods

University of Kentucky College of Dentistry faculty worked with Nursing faculty from the Medical University of South Carolina to modify two existing curricular resources (see above) to create oral health education modules suitable for nursing students and advanced practice nursing students. The educational resources were piloted with BS nursing students in the spring of 2013 and will be piloted with Advanced Practice Nursing Students in the summer of 2013. Evaluation of the oral health curriculum will be accomplished by utilizing online pre-post surveys and will measure

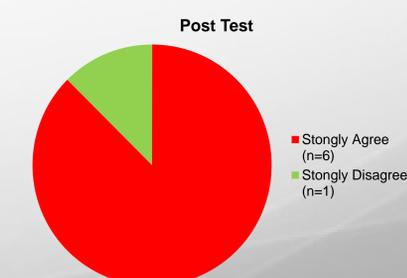
- Reaction (satisfaction)
- Modification of attitudes and perceptions
- Acquisition of knowledge/ skills

Both nurses and dentists should contribute to decisions regarding daily oral care for long term care residents. (n=8)



This learning activity enhanced my appreciation of the value of interprofessional teamwork. (n=7)

I am confident in my ability to provide oral care for long term care residents. (n=8)



This learning activity enhanced my knowledge about oral care for long term care residents. (n=8)

Acknowledgements

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