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.

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

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

Methods

University of Kentucky College of Dentistry faculty worked with Nursing faculty from the Medical University of South Carolina to modify 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

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