

Community-Campus Partnership: Riverview Retirement

Madalina G., Monica M., Jayna W., and Taylor Z.



Project & Goals

Goals

- Educate CNAs on the importance of regular oral health screenings
- Ability to recognize common oral lesions and what actions to take
- Familiarize CNAs with the OHAT tool when doing oral health screenings

Background & Critical Issue

Through our partnership with Riverview Retirement, we first conducted a needs assessment to establish a presentation directed towards CNAs that work directly with the residents. We wanted to familiarize the CNAs with the oral cavity by providing an assessment tool (OHAT) and a presentation discussing how to screen for changes in the oral cavity and when to refer for dental treatment.

Partner Organization

Riverview Retirement, Spokane, WA

This retirement community is a non-profit organization that has an independent living, assisted living, and a memory care unit. There are about 330 residents currently living on the premises. Riverview Retirement has Certified Nurse Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, a Registered Dental Hygienist that visits, and a Mental Health counselor Dr. Melendez.

Implementation

The needs assessment and collaboration with the director and head Nurse of Riverview Retirement made it apparent that an educational piece over oral cancer was a necessity. The CNAs are trained for the assisted living unit with oral home care. About 40-45 residents out of the 70 in this unit require assistance when brushing their teeth. Our group made a presentation that will be sent to our partners, specifically the head nurse of the retirement community, who will share it with the CNAs. The purpose of the presentation is to educate the CNAs on what to look for and how to look for lesions that could potentially pose a threat to the geriatric population. In the presentation, our group introduced the Oral Health Assessment Tool so that the CNAs can use this when performing quick oral cancer screenings. Once the CNAs have looked through the presentation and utilized the OHAT, there is a post-questionnaire provided. This questionnaire will provide us with feedback to continue to work with our partners to promote oral health.

What We Learned

Through our work with the retirement community at Riverview, we first-handily saw how important oral health for seniors is. Our presentation was designed to make it easier for CNAs to be able to recognize common oral lesions and then know what steps to take.

As a group we learned the importance of regular oral health screenings for those that cannot physically come into a dental office. Many oral health problems in seniors are due to lack of care, medications, and ill-fitting dentures, which many seniors wear. With this we learned that preventing the appearance of oral health lesions is extremely important through preventative measures like regular cleanings. When there is an appearance of lesions in the oral cavity, CNAs will know how to distinguish from normal to abnormal and what steps to further take.



Evaluation Instrument

1. CNAs play an important role in the oral health of seniors and residents.
2. I feel confident in my ability to recognize oral health changes related to overall systemic diseases.
3. I feel confident in my ability to use the Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT) in selecting interventions.
4. In your role, what do you find the challenges to be in maintaining optimal oral health for senior residents?
5. Again, we value your input and suggestions. Please, share what you learned most from this presentation, and if/how you see yourself using the OHAT tool.
6. Lastly, what other oral health-related topics or skills presentations you would like to see further developed?

Civic Perspective

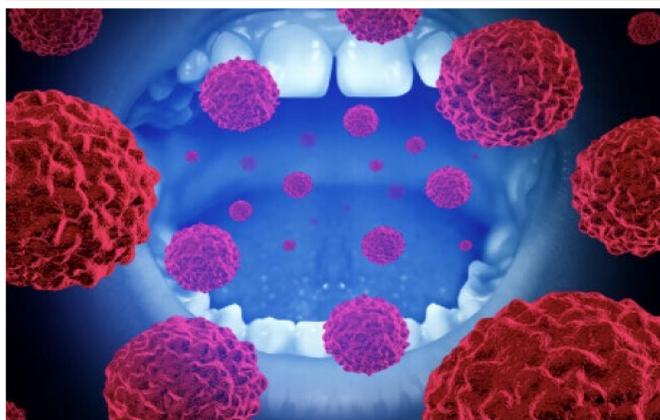
This helped us to further understand the organizations vision, mission and goals by allowing us an opportunity to view firsthand their current oral care for patients and show us their willingness to accept new practices.

Project & Goals

For the future, this experience needs more time so we can develop it thoroughly. Our group did not have a chance to do the OHAT in person, but we are glad that we could provide the CNAs with educational resources that they can implement.

References

1. <https://custercreedental.com/services/cleaning-and-prevention/oral-cancer-screening/>
2. <https://riverviewretirement.org/>
3. <https://www.siphidaho.org/comhealth/ship/KM05-Oral-Health-Assessment-Tool-for-Primary-Care.pdf>
4. <https://emedmultispecialtygroup.com/2018/01/04/older-adults-need-help-managing-multiple-chronic-conditions/topic-elderly-population/>



Caption: Oral Cancer¹

Primary Care		Initial assessment	Repeat assessment	Score	Action Required	Action Completed
Lips	0 = healthy	Smooth, pink, moist	1 = changes	2 = unhealthy		
Tongue	0 = healthy	Normal, moist, pink	1 = changes	2 = unhealthy		
Gums and Tissues	0 = healthy	Pink, moist, smooth, no bleeding	1 = changes	2 = unhealthy		
Saliva	0 = healthy	Moist tissues, watery and free flowing saliva	1 = changes	2 = unhealthy		
Natural Teeth	0 = healthy	No decayed or broken teeth/roots	1 = changes	2 = unhealthy		
Denture(s)	0 = healthy	No broken areas/teeth, dentures worn regularly, name is on	1 = changes	2 = unhealthy		
Oral Cleanliness	0 = healthy	Clean and no food particles or tartar on teeth or dentures	1 = changes	2 = unhealthy		
Dental Pain	0 = healthy	No behavioural, verbal or physical signs of pain	1 = changes	2 = unhealthy		