Rapid Oral Health Screening and Risk Assessment

Consider using non-clinician team members to provide most of the counseling and screening for oral health.

ASK: Adults and Adolescents

- On average, how many days per week do you brush your teeth for at least two minutes, twice daily, using fluoride toothpaste and floss at least once daily? [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] DOCUMENT
- On average, how many times daily do you consume starch or sugar (sugary snacks or sugary drinks) between meals? [< 1, 2–3, 4–5, > 6] DOCUMENT
- Has anyone in the immediate family (including a caregiver) had tooth decay or lost a tooth from tooth decay in the past year? [Y/N] DOCUMENT
- Do you experience stomach acid in your mouth or throat after eating or when lying down on a daily or almost daily basis? [Y/N] DOCUMENT
- Do you commonly experience dry mouth? (i.e., requiring swallowing water to eat crackers) [Y/N] DOCUMENT
- Do you experience tooth pain or bleeding gums when you eat or brush your teeth? [Y/N] DOCUMENT

ASK: Pediatrics

- How many days per week do you clean/brush your child's teeth, or supervise/monitor your child in brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice daily? [0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7] DOCUMENT
- On average, how many times daily does your child consume starch or sugar (sugary snacks or sugary drinks) between meals? [< 1, 2–3, 4–5, > 6] DOCUMENT
- Has anyone in the immediate family (including a caregiver) had tooth decay or lost a tooth from decay in the past year? [Y/N] DOCUMENT
- Does your child complain of tooth pain or have signs of bleeding gums when they eat or brush their teeth? [Y/N] DOCUMENT

LOOK:

- Normal
- Oral dryness
- Plaque
- Signs of tooth decay, including white spots
- Inflamed gums
- Broken teeth
- Missing teeth
- Edentulous (lacking all teeth, toothless)
- Other: _____
- Patient is under active treatment by a dentist for the above finding(s) [Y/N] DOCUMENT

DECIDE:

- Are there any risk factors that can be reduced?
- Are there signs of disease?

ACT:

Always:

- Advise: "Brush teeth with a fluoride toothpaste twice daily for at least two minutes. Floss every day."
- Provide patient education materials as appropriate. DOCUMENT
- Fold oral health counseling into broader care plan.
- Care team members reiterate importance of oral health.

As Appropriate:

- Set a schedule for administering fluoride varnish. DOCUMENT
- Review medication list and lifestyle factors for pharmaceutical or lifestyle causes of dry mouth. Adjust medications as needed.
- Refer to a dentist. DOCUMENT

Source: Developed by Qualis Health for the Washington Dental Service Foundation
"Oral Health Preventive Services in Primary Care Project." 1st ed. Seattle, WA. February 2015.

About the Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project

Organized, Evidence-Based Care Supplement: Oral Health Integration joins the Safety Net Medical Home Initiative Implementation Guide Series.

The goal of the Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project was to prepare primary care teams to address oral health and to improve referrals to dentistry through the development and testing of a framework and toolset. The project was administered by Qualis Health and built upon the learnings from 19 field-testing sites in Washington, Oregon, Kansas, Missouri, and Massachusetts, who received implementation support from their primary care association. Organized, Evidence-Based Care Supplement: Oral Health Integration built upon the Oral Health Delivery Framework published in Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care, and was informed by the field-testing sites' work, experiences, and feedback. Field-testing sites in Kansas, Massachusetts, and Oregon also received technical assistance from their state's primary care association.

The Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project was sponsored by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, a consortium of funders and health professionals who share a vision that dental disease can be eradicated, and funded by the DentaQuest Foundation, the REACH Healthcare Foundation, and the Washington Dental Service Foundation.

For more information about the project sponsors and funders, refer to:

- National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health: niioh.org.
- DentaQuest Foundation (now CareQuest Institute for Oral Health): carequest.org.
- REACH Healthcare Foundation: reachhealth.org.
- Washington Dental Service Foundation (now Arcora Foundation): arcorafoundation.org.

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