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Application of NICE guidelines for Care Homes and Domiciliary Care Providers to Screening for Oral Care in Hospitalized Geriatric Patients.

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Introduction:

As the aging population increases, so does the dependency of older people to maintain their oral health and wellbeing. Every 1 pound spent on good mouth care in hospitals, saves 16 pounds from complications developed from periodontal disease. To improve oral health care in hospitals, we developed and applied a standardised screening process to identify oral health care needs for all new Geriatric hospital admissions.

Method:

The screening proforma was developed from recommendations of NICE guidelines on Care Homes and Domiciliary Care Providers. We applied the screening proforma to all new Geriatric hospital admissions over one week with daily monitoring. We identified how many patients were escalated to doctors and equipment sourced after proforma use.

Results:

A total of 25 patients were identified; 3 of 25 (12%) were escalated to doctors, 4 of 25 (16%) needed assistance with standard oral care, 12 of 25 (48%) required a toothbrush and toothpaste, 6 of 25 (24%) patients had no concerns with oral care. Nursing staff delivering care and screening patients found the checklist easy to use and flowchart identifying level of support required instructive.

Conclusion:

This study shows the effectiveness of applying a standardised proforma to identify oral health care needs of elderly patients. This led to quick identifications of oral dysfunction and escalation to doctors, and correct equipment sourcing, so all patients had toothbrush, toothpaste and pots to store dentures overnight.

Biography

A Bhojwani has completed his primary medical degree and masters in translation medicine in clinical oncology at the age of 25 years from University of Liverpool. He is a foundation year 3 doctor in the West Midlands Deanery.