

# 2017 NICHE: Nurses Improving Care for Health System Elders Conference

## Roundtable Discussion: Oral Neglect in Long Term Care Settings

**Overview:** Oral health as critical to overall health is increasingly on the radar in a regulatory & organizational context. While the inclusion of oral health needs in resident care planning is standard of care – it remains a low priority. Daily mouth care, denture care, & routine dental care are not institutionalized in long term care settings. Benign oral neglect is common in those who depend on others for care. Efforts to improve daily oral care in long term care settings continues to be met with limited if any success. Oral health “buy in” of administrative & clinical staff varies widely from nursing facility to nursing facility & is generally minimal. The expectation of routine dental care exists only in a minority of nursing facilities & is largely “oral champion based.”

### Oral Neglect – What is it?

# of days from detection to diagnosis + # days diagnosed to care phase begins = total time to qualify as neglect\*

3 days + 5 days = 8 days for acute conditions

14 days + 21 days = 35 days for chronic conditions

### MDS - Section L: Oral/Dental Status

- Broken or loosely fitting full or partial dentures
- No natural teeth or tooth fragments
- Abnormal mouth tissue
- Obvious or likely cavity or broken natural teeth
- Inflamed gums, bleeding gums, loose natural teeth
- Mouth or facial pain or discomfort with chewing
- None of the above



### Key Points:

- ✚ Elders in long term care settings are almost universally overlooked for daily mouth care & routine oral care.
- ✚ Despite a history of previous regular dental care, once an elder enters a long term care facility, a combination of factors leaves this same elder at risk for accelerated tooth decay, oral infections, tooth loss, pain, related negative change in behavior.
- ✚ There is a growing body of scientific literature linking poor oral health with increased hospitalizations, readmissions, pneumonia, respiratory infections, COPD, pneumonia, diabetes, dementia, behavior change, etc.
- ✚ Elders with memory care issues do not report oral problems making them the most vulnerable to the impact of neglected mouth care.
- ✚ A proactive oral health program is a critical component to achieve the best health outcomes possible & a key component of quality care.
- ✚ Failure to provide regular and necessary oral care can put residents at risk of harm.

## Roundtable Discussion:

**Minimum Data Set:** % = inflammed gums? % = obvious cavity, broken teeth? % = get daily oral care

**Problem:** Oral and dental problems are typically “sanitized”. Significant oral disease/infection can be present with report of “no pain”.

**Nursing Insights?** “What doesn’t work”? “What holds promise”? Interdisciplinary consensus on oral care guidelines?

## Summary:

- ✚ Opportunities exist to improve population oral health in elders with potential savings in downstream healthcare costs and improvement in quality of life.
- ✚ The continued leadership role of the nursing profession in improving mouth health in long term care is critical for ongoing quality improvement.
- ✚ Facility compliance with CMS regulations will require a significant improvement in organizational expectation and performance.

## Mouth Care Without a Battle: Individualized Mouth Care for Persons with Cognitive & Physical Impairment

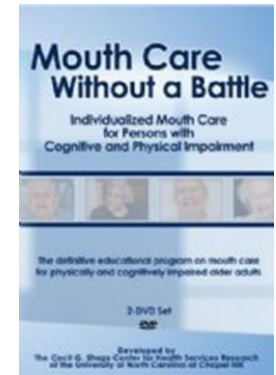
[www.mouthcarewithoutabattle.unc.edu](http://www.mouthcarewithoutabattle.unc.edu)

Module 1: Basics of Mouth Care

Module 2: Providing Mouth Care in Challenging Situations

Module 3: The Critical Role of Licensed Nurses in Mouth Care

Module 4: Overview for Administrators, Policy Makers & Other Advocates for Quality Care



## Resources:

Description	Type	Location of Resource
American Medical Directors Association Improving Oral Health of LTC Residents	Toolkit	<a href="http://www.amda.com/news/releases/2014/pr_010614_oralhealth.pdf">http://www.amda.com/news/releases/2014/pr_010614_oralhealth.pdf</a>
Annals of Long-Term Care: Meeting Oral Health Challenges in LTC Facilities	Article	<a href="http://www.annalsoflongtermcare.com/article/meeting-oral-health-challenges-long-term-care-facilities">http://www.annalsoflongtermcare.com/article/meeting-oral-health-challenges-long-term-care-facilities</a>
Cross-Federal Initiative: Expanding Oral Health Access for Older Adults	Webinar	<a href="http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Oral_Health/docs/051513_OlderAdults_OralHealth_presentation.pdf">http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Oral_Health/docs/051513_OlderAdults_OralHealth_presentation.pdf</a>
University of Minnesota: School of Dentistry: Oral Care for Older Adults in Long-Term Care	Video	<a href="http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/OralCareWorkbook1_30std.pdf">http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fpc/OralCareWorkbook1_30std.pdf</a>
American Dental Education Association: Nursing Home Oral Health Manual	Online Manual	<a href="http://www.adea.org/Secondary.aspx?id=18602">http://www.adea.org/Secondary.aspx?id=18602</a>
University of Kentucky: Oral Health Training Program for Nursing Staff	PowerPoint	<a href="http://stream.uky.edu/bbstream/NHOH/30/Stein_Presentation_1.html">http://stream.uky.edu/bbstream/NHOH/30/Stein_Presentation_1.html</a>
Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice	Multiple	<a href="http://www.ohnep.org">www.ohnep.org</a>
Center for Oral Health: Guidelines for Providing Dental Services in Skilled Nursing Facilities	Guidelines	<a href="http://www.centerfororalhealth.org/images/lib_PDF/Skilled_Nursing_Facility_Dental_Services_Guidelines.pdf">http://www.centerfororalhealth.org/images/lib_PDF/Skilled_Nursing_Facility_Dental_Services_Guidelines.pdf</a>
Journal of the American Society on Aging "Aging & the Importance of Oral Health"	Journal: "Generations"	Fall 2016 - Funded by the Gary and Mary West Foundation - <a href="http://www.asaging.org">www.asaging.org</a>

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