



### Project Goals

The Fellows sought to address oral health needs in the long term care facility (CLC) at the Durham VA by working with the nursing staff to create a model for standardized and sustainable oral health care. The program educated and inspired the nursing staff to take ownership of their patient's oral care through oral care training seminars and interdisciplinary oral health rounds.

### Services Offered

#### Oral Care Training for Health Care Professionals

- Led twelve, one-hour seminars training the nursing staff in the CLC on the basics of oral health care.
  - Topics included: Brushing and Flossing, Denture Care, Dry Mouth, Proxy Brush use, and Dysphagia and Tube Feeding
- Surveyed nursing staff before and after the intervention to assess their knowledge of and comfort level in performing oral health care.

#### Oral Care Rounds

- Conducted interdisciplinary oral care rounds with the nursing staff as they provided one-on-one oral health care to the CLC residents
- Worked in conjunction with the nursing staff to increase availability of oral care supplies for the residents

### Results

- Trained 47 nursing staff members in the basics of oral care in a hospital setting
- Worked one-on-one with 24 nurses as they provided oral health care to the residents of the CLC.



- ensured that each resident obtained personalized oral care
- provided the nursing staff the opportunity learn how to serve the unique oral care needs of each patient

- Increased awareness of the importance of oral health care in a hospital setting
- Increased availability to oral care supplies and products
- Created oral health training videos that will be incorporated into staff training.
- Observed improved plaque and gingival score measurements after our intervention.
- Nursing staff surveys report an overall increase in knowledge, skills, and motivation regarding oral care following training.
- Recruited 9 nurses to become Oral Care Champions, including nurses from all four units and across all three shifts.

### Sustainability

The Fellows recruited nine nursing assistants to become Oral Care Champions responsible for maintaining and improving oral hygiene in the CLC.

- Responsibilities of the oral care champions:
  1. Educating fellow nurses about oral health care.
  2. Motivating the nursing staff to appropriately and adequately address the oral health care needs of each resident.
  3. Notifying the charge nurse if additional oral issues need to be addressed by the VA dentist.
  4. Ensuring each resident's room is stocked with the appropriate oral care supplies.

Oral Health Training videos and PowerPoints will remain at the Durham VA to serve as a training tool for the nursing staff during their annual training.

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