

Title of Intervention: The Oral Health Education Program (OHEP)

Intervention Strategies: Provider Education

Purpose of the Intervention: To improve nursing personnel's attitudes toward oral hygiene as part of routine care procedures

Population: Nursing personnel in special housing facilities for the elderly

Setting: Five municipalities in southwestern Sweden; worksite-based

Partners: The Department of Hospital Dentistry

Intervention Description:

- **Provider Education:** The material was presented through slides, videotape and a compendium entitled 'Oral health care knowledge for nursing personnel.' The information consisted of descriptions of healthy and diseased oral cavity, rationale for special oral health care programs for the chronically ill and/or those with handicaps, dental prostheses and oral hygiene techniques. Trained instructors presented the OHEP to nursing personnel in each institution on one single occasion which consisted of four, one-hour lessons in medium-sized groups.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- **Staff/Volunteers:** Instructors
- **Training:** Training for instructors
- **Technology:** Audiovisual equipment
- **Space:** Room for presentation
- **Budget:** Not mentioned
- **Intervention:** Slideshow, videotape, compendium
- **Evaluation:** Printed questionnaires

Evaluation:

- **Design:** Quasi-experimental
- **Methods and Measures:**
 - Questionnaire to assess the impact of the intervention on the nursing personnel

Outcomes:

- **Short Term Impact:** The OHEP improved participants' ability to perform oral hygiene procedures for care receivers. The OHEP improved participants' ability to give advice to care receivers.
- **Long Term Impact:** Not measured

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: An oral health education program offered to nursing personnel in special housing for the elderly positively affected the personnel's ability to perform oral hygiene procedures for care receivers by improving attitude factors. The effect of OHEP remained after three years, which implies that there is meaning in efforts to improve knowledge through education.

Citation(s):

Paulsson G, Fridlund B, Holmen A, Nederfors T. Evaluation of an oral health education program for nursing personnel in special housing facilities for the elderly. *Spec Care Dentist*. Nov-Dec 1998;18(6):234-242.

Paulsson G, Soderfeldt B, Nederfors T, Fridlund B. The effect of an oral health education program after three years. *Spec Care Dentist*. 2003;23(2):63-69.