



Evaluation and Impact of an Oral Health Education Program in an In-Patient Setting

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Background

Oral health is a **critical determinant of overall health and quality of life (QoL)**, yet it is **disproportionately poor** among **individuals with mental health disorders** [1]. This is due to the often overlooked relationship between mental health and oral health, which lacks sufficient attention and review [2,3].

Contributing factors include: [4]



Substance use



Systemic barriers to accessing dental care



Adverse effects of psychotropic medications



Implications of hospitalization

In **acute care inpatient settings**, the integration of oral health care has been shown to be vital for improving oral health outcomes [5]. Despite this evidence, standard patient care in mental health institutions often **lacks accessible oral health education** for mental health patients. Research highlights significant gaps in evidence-based, **patient-centered oral health interventions** tailored to the specific needs of mental health inpatients. Collectively, the literature highlights the need for a **comprehensive approach** to **improve oral health outcomes** in individuals with mental health disorders.

Aims and Objectives

Assess the efficacy of a mental health-inpatient oral health education program, aimed to:

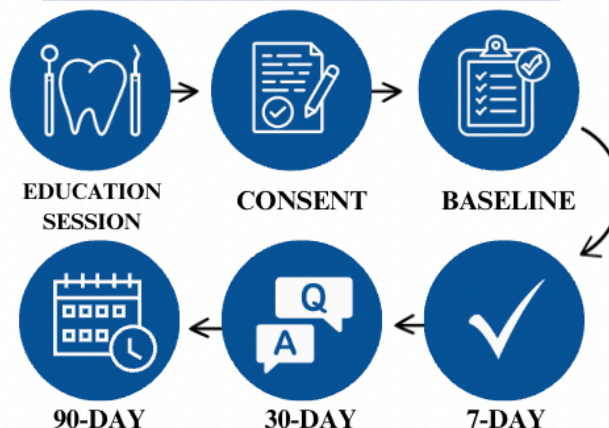
1. **Reduce** care disparities
2. **Enhance** patients' dental literacy
3. **Foster** optimal oral hygiene practices
4. **Instill** greater value on oral health

Methodology

Inclusion Criteria

- A mental health inpatient at Windsor Regional hospital
- Completed Oral Health Education session ≤ 24 hours prior to consent
- Ages 16+
- English language proficiency

Protocol



Schedule of Assessments

	Baseline Screening	7-Day Follow Up	30-Day Follow Up	90-Day Follow Up
Oral Health Questionnaire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OHRQoL Tool (OHIP-14) Questionnaire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chart Abstraction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Key Measures

- Changes in oral health **knowledge, behaviors, QoL**, and **patient satisfaction**
- **Sociodemographic factors** and **medical history** will be analyzed to determine correlations with oral health outcomes

Impact & Future Directions



- Address key gaps in **colocation** and **referral pathways** for integrating oral health and mental health care
- Offer strategies to **enhance patient outcomes and QoL**
- Aim to **advance interdisciplinary** care models
- Focus on **reducing oral health disparities**
- Support the development of sustainable, **patient-centered oral health** programs tailored to mental health patients

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