

May the Fluoride be with you!

A New Hope for Oral Care in Pre-Registration Nursing Education

Introduction

It is essential that healthcare professionals understand the importance of good oral hygiene, and a clean healthy mouth is fundamental to everyone's quality of life (Caring for Smiles 2013).



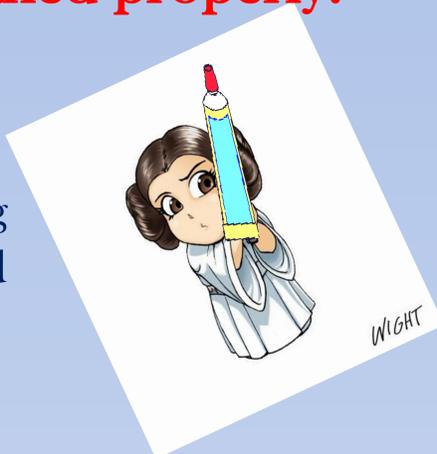
Feedback

Over the past 3 years approximately 1400 students have received mouth care advice and instruction, this also includes students from Fife. Feedback was collected from students via a post activity questionnaire, some of their comments have been highlighted below.

Aim

“Ensure dentures are removed and cleaned properly.”

The overall aim of this project was to provide interactive clinical skills sessions in mouth care for pre-registration nursing students at Dundee & Angus College and Dundee University.



This year we also begin our training programme with pre-registration mental health nursing students from Abertay University, which completes the list of all pre-registration nursing students in Tayside.

Method

“You’re my only hope!!”

Taking a back to basics approach, this initiative involves educating 1st year Nursing students at Dundee University together with Access to Nursing students at Dundee and Angus College. Student feedback was collected after each session.

There are two main elements to this initiative carried out by NHS Tayside’s Oral Health Improvement Team:

1. A background presentation on oral care as part of their “Personal Care Module”
2. An interactive session at the Clinical Skills Centre in Ninewells Hospital involving tooth brushing, denture hygiene and mouth care. The Oral Health Improvement Team have an “oral health station” within clinical skills, together with catheterisation, bed bathing and bed making.

“It was important to gain an understanding of oral health to help me when caring for individuals to identify when there may be issues with their oral health and how I can monitor this and provide the best support and care for the individual.”

“Fun yet informative. Had been a pre-placement worry for me having to brush teeth and clean dentures, now feel much better about doing this.

Thank you very much!”

“Brushing someone else’s teeth was quite interesting but very effective as I will never forget it”

“It’s valuable in that it’s an aspect of personal care that is often missed and I feel now that I have the knowledge to prevent it being an issue where I go in practice...”

“I didn’t find it appropriate having a stranger brushing your teeth. I did not find this experience either enjoyable or comfortable”

“Mmm.... think of your patients....try you must.”

