

# Smiles for Life

## A National Oral Health Curriculum

### *Third Edition*

STFM Group on Oral Health

## Educational Goals and Objectives

### **Patient Care**

GOAL: Students/residents will appropriately interview and examine patients and accurately identify the manifestations of oral disease and its risk factors.

OBJECTIVES: The student/resident will:

- Perform an appropriate oral health history focusing on identification of risk factors for oral diseases.
- Perform an appropriate dietary history focusing on factors that increase the risk of oral diseases such as tobacco and alcohol use and the frequency of sugar intake.
- Perform an appropriate oral examination that effectively visualizes all intra-oral hard and soft tissue, and identifies normal landmarks.
- Correctly identify common oral abnormalities including dental caries, periodontal disease, oral infections, and common benign and malignant oral lesions.
- Generate an appropriate differential diagnosis for common abnormal oral findings.
- Appropriately document oral findings and diagnoses.

GOAL: Students/residents will understand the importance of preventive care in the maintenance of oral health

OBJECTIVES: Students/residents will be able to counsel patients and families appropriately regarding:

- Appropriate diet for all age groups, with a focus on factors that increase the risk of dental caries such as frequency of sugar consumption.
- Avoidance of unhealthy habits that increase oral cancer risk such as alcohol and tobacco use.
- Brushing and flossing.
- Appropriate intervals for dental care and selection of an appropriate dental professional.

- Systemic fluoride supplementation in children, including determination of fluoride content in local public water supplies and wells.
- Appropriate use of fluoride varnish under special circumstances.
- Prevention of oral trauma and the use of face masks and mouth guards.
- Links between oral and systemic disease.

## **Medical Knowledge**

GOAL: Students/residents should understand normal anatomy and function of the oral cavity.

OBJECTIVES: Students/residents will:

- Correctly identify normal anatomy.
- Describe the function of the muscles, salivary glands, teeth, and temporomandibular joint
- Describe common developmental abnormalities of the oral cavity and their impact on function.

GOAL: Students/residents will learn the epidemiology and pathophysiology of oral diseases, and how oral problems affect patients' ability to live with other chronic illnesses.

OBJECTIVES: Student/residents will:

- Describe the relationships between oral diseases and systemic diseases, including the oral manifestations of tobacco use (either smoked or chewed), systemic medications, alcohol use, autoimmune disease, and immune deficiency, and associations with cardiovascular disease, pregnancy, and diabetes mellitus.
- Describe the incidence and prevalence, risk factors, and pathophysiology of:
  - Early childhood caries
  - Adult caries
  - Periodontal disease
  - Common benign oral lesions including tori, cystic lesions, ulcerations, and white lesions
  - Oropharyngeal neoplasms
  - Chronic facial pain
  - Temporomandibular joint disorders
  - Craniofacial birth defects
  - Facial trauma
  - Oral infections caused by viruses, fungi, and bacteria
  - Common neural disorders of the head and neck including trigeminal neuralgia and facial nerve palsies
  - The oral manifestations of autoimmune disorders

- Describe the diagnosis and management of common dental emergencies including:
  - Dental pain
  - Peri-apical and periodontal abscesses
  - Cellulitis and infection of the deep spaces of the head and neck
  - Dental trauma including tooth luxation and avulsion
  - Pericoronitis
  - Complications of dental extractions

GOAL: Students/residents will understand common points of intersection between medical and dental care, and the physician's role in those situations.

OBJECTIVES: The student/resident will:

- Understand the risks and indications for temporary cessation of anticoagulation therapy in preparation for dental surgery.
- List the indications and appropriate dosing for the administration of antibiotic prophylaxis prior to dental procedures to reduce the risk of infection of cardiac structures and implanted medical devices per American Heart Association guidelines.

### **Practice-Based Learning and Improvement**

GOAL: Students/residents will understand how screening for oral disease in primary care can identify patients in need of treatment and preventive interventions and how this can yield to improved outcomes.

OBJECTIVES: The student will:

- Identify screening methods that can be used by a primary care physician to detect oral problems.
- Describe how screening can yield improved outcomes.

GOAL: Students/residents will demonstrate appropriate self-directed learning and application of evidence to knowledge acquisition.

OBJECTIVES: Students/residents will:

- Choose appropriate print and electronic resources.
- Appropriately utilize those resources in a self-directed manner.
- Recognize the importance of basing knowledge acquisition and clinical decision making on evidence-based resources.

### **Interpersonal Communication Skills**

GOAL: Students/residents should communicate effectively with patients around oral health issues.

OBJECTIVES: Students/residents will:

- Create and sustain effective therapeutic relationships.
- Effectively communicate the importance of oral health in the context of total health.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to race, religion, gender, age, and cultural issues.

### **Professionalism**

GOAL: Students/residents will demonstrate professionalism in the care of patients with oral needs.

OBJECTIVES: The student/resident will:

- Maintain confidentiality.
- Act professionally at all times.

### **Systems-Based Practice**

GOAL: Students/residents will recognize the role of the primary care physician in maintaining oral health, and how it is influenced by barriers to care and social and cultural determinants of health.

OBJECTIVES: The student/resident will be able to:

- Articulate the public health argument for the need for fluoridation of the public water supply.
- Recognize current barriers to access to dental care, and advocate for patients in circumventing them.
- Work within their communities to improve access to dental care
- Appropriately partner with case managers and coordinate care with other health care professionals.
- Facilitate effective communication between medical and dental professionals.
- Discuss factors that impact oral health in multi-cultural populations.

*These educational objectives were originally developed as part of the Family Medicine Curriculum Resource Project (HRSA Contract No. 240-00-0107) Oral Health Special Topic Outline. Jeffrey Stearns, MD, David Schneider, MD, Ardis Davis, MSW, FMCR Alan Douglass, MD, Joanna Douglass, BDS, DDS, Paul E. Gates, DDS, Wendy Mouradian, MD, and Sara Kim, PhD.*