

BASCD 2023 ABSTRACT #20**Oral Health baseline assessment tool for
London elderly care homes: an evaluation**

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Background:

The NHS Framework for Enhanced Health in Care Homes highlights the importance of good oral health. An Oral Health baseline assessment tool (OHBT) has been developed and piloted for use in elderly care homes to evaluate their current practice in line with NICE guidelines (NG48) and CQC recommendations.

Objectives:

To evaluate whether utilisation of an OHBT has supported elderly care home compliance with CQC standards/NHS framework for maintaining and improving residents' oral health.

Methods:

Retrospective quantitative data was collected from KCHFT North East London Dental Outreach teams who offered the assessment tool to elderly care homes during oral health training. Qualitative data was collected from Elderly Care Home staff and Dental Outreach staff to explore how acceptable and effective the baseline tool was in prompting, identifying and supporting areas to improve oral health. Ethics approval was not required as this is part of a quality improvement project.

Results:

The tool was offered to 96 elderly care homes; 29 completed it (30%). Interviews conducted suggested that care home managers were aware of the OHBT to support their adherence to oral health standards. Completed copies were not always recorded and kept by the Care Home. Differences in how the OHBT was presented by the Outreach team impacted uptake; the range of uptake by boroughs was 7-100%. All Outreach staff recommended that the OHBT is made more "user-friendly" to encourage care home staff to complete the form. Barriers to completion of OHBT included: worried about filling it in, time-consuming, seen as long and overwhelming, not compatible with software. The OHBT was described as helpful in identifying where to focus training, useful in signposting to resources and evidence for CQC.

Conclusion:

Our study suggests that the OHBT is beneficial, identifies areas to improve and may be used as evidence for CQC inspections. Recommendations based on feedback include improving usability through focus groups with care home staff and completing the OHBT with support from Outreach teams immediately before training.

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