Oral Hygiene in Older Adults: Assessment, Care, and Complications

INTRODUCTION

Inadequate oral hygiene practices can contribute to or result in severe localized and systemic illnesses, significantly altering the health status and well-being of older adults. Care providers must recognize symptoms, conditions, and their potential consequences and elevate routine oral hygiene care to oral infection control programs. This session from the 2017 online conference “Dysphagia in Older Adults” identifies possible oral hygiene complications—from oral pain to pneumonia—and discusses how to recognize and assess them. It also addresses the importance of standardized intervention.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- utilize a standardized oral health screening tool as part of the bedside clinical dysphagia assessment to determine the oral health status of patients, and use the results to determine the proper course of intervention
- incorporate oral health findings as an important clinical factor in making decisions regarding the safety of oral feeding and its potential for contributing to possible development of pneumonia from aspiration

PROGRAM HISTORY AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

End date: May 4, 2020

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the learning assessment on or before May 4, 2020.

To see if this program has been renewed after this date, please search by title in ASHA’s online store at www.asha.org/shop.

This course is offered for 0.1 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).
STATEMENT ON EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that audiologists and speech-language pathologists incorporate the principles of evidence-based practice in clinical decision making to provide high-quality clinical care. The term evidence-based practice refers to an approach in which current, high-quality research evidence is integrated with practitioner expertise and client preferences and values into the process of making clinical decisions.

Participants are encouraged to actively seek and critically evaluate the evidence basis for clinical procedures presented in this and other educational programs.

Adopted by the Scientific and Professional Education Board, April 2006