

Optimizing Elderly Oral Health Management Well-Being: A Comprehensive Framework Adoption

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Abstract

Poor oral health among elderly populations represents a critical geriatric syndrome complicated by multimorbidity and polypharmacy, requiring comprehensive interdisciplinary approaches. Existing literature reveals significant gaps in evaluation frameworks for elderly oral health management across diverse care settings, particularly regarding relationships between oral and mental health outcomes. This study aims to evaluate existing frameworks related to elderly oral health management and provide improvement plans addressing the growing concern of poor oral health complicated by multiple illnesses, medication use, and functional decline. A descriptive quantitative research design employed purposive convenience sampling from the geriatric industry, involving thirty respondents comprising elderly individuals and dentists. Data collection utilized validated questionnaires with five-point Likert scales measuring proactive prevention indicators (Assessment, Diagnosis, Planning, Implementation, Evaluation, Rethink) and oral health indicators (Health System, Culture and Society, Education System, Oral health cost and outcomes). Statistical analysis employed descriptive statistics, ANOVA, and t-tests using SPSS version 22. Results revealed predominantly female respondents (75%) with college education (73.3%) and middle-income levels. Proactive prevention measures scored consistently high, with Planning achieving the highest extent (4.28) and follow-up visits most emphasized (4.50). Health system indicators showed moderate performance (3.72). Significant differences emerged between sex and educational background groups. The study recommends developing targeted outreach strategies leveraging female health advocates, establishing mandatory geriatric dentistry curricula, and designing tiered payment systems. A comprehensive Elderly Oral Health Management Framework is proposed incorporating six components: Assessment, Access and Support Systems, Prevention and Planning, Implementation and Integration, Resources and Reach, and Evaluation and Evolution.

Keywords: Health Sciences and Gerontology; Elderly Oral Health Management and Geriatric Syndrome; Framework Development