



Knowledge that will change your world

Improving the Oral Health of Older Adults with Cognitive Impairments Via Interprofessional Approaches

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Nurses as Oral Health Champions

✓ Largest Health Profession

- 3.8 million Registered Nurses (RNs)
- 270,000 Nurse Practitioners (NPs)
 - 89% are certified in an area of primary care
- 11,800 Nurse-Midwives (NMs)

✓ Most Trusted Profession

- Providing care and promoting health

✓ Nurses are Everywhere

- Hospitals, ambulatory centers, long-term care, acute care, workplace, retail clinics, homecare, primary care

Nurse Practitioners as Key Interprofessional Team Members

- Primary Care Providers in LTC
- Common NH health issues may have oral etiology
 - Behaviors (mouth pain)
 - Decay/Tooth Loss
 - Weight loss
 - Nutritional deficits without weight change
 - B vitamins, D vitamins (change in cognition, anemia)
 - Oral infections→Systemic Infections

Barrier to Oral Hygiene: Care-Resistant Behavior



ARCORA

The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington

Oral Care Cards for Caregivers



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Gestures



Caregiver note:

When understanding verbal commands become too difficult, gestures and pantomime are valuable communication techniques that can prevent caregiver frustration and threat perception.

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Mirror-mirror



Caregiver note:

Have the person with dementia stand in front of a mirror and the caregiver stand behind him or her to provide oral care.

Mirror-mirror is believed to be successful because it removes the caregiver from between the person and his or her image in the mirror.

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UAB SCHOOL OF
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Oral Health for Caregivers

Caregivers, May 2018

Oral Health for Caregivers was developed by oral health experts and the Arcora Foundation. These online continuing education modules provide critical oral health information for those who care for older adults with an emphasis on prevention.

Designed for home care aides, the content, videos, and downloadable resources introduce oral health in an easy-to-understand format with strategies that can be implemented immediately.

Course Information

1. Oral Health Basics

- How oral health affects overall health
- How aging affects oral health
- Basic facts about oral health and ways to assist clients with routine oral care
- What a healthy mouth and unhealthy mouth look like
- How to identify and report unusual conditions in and around the mouth to help clients prevent oral disease or intervene early before a dental problem becomes serious

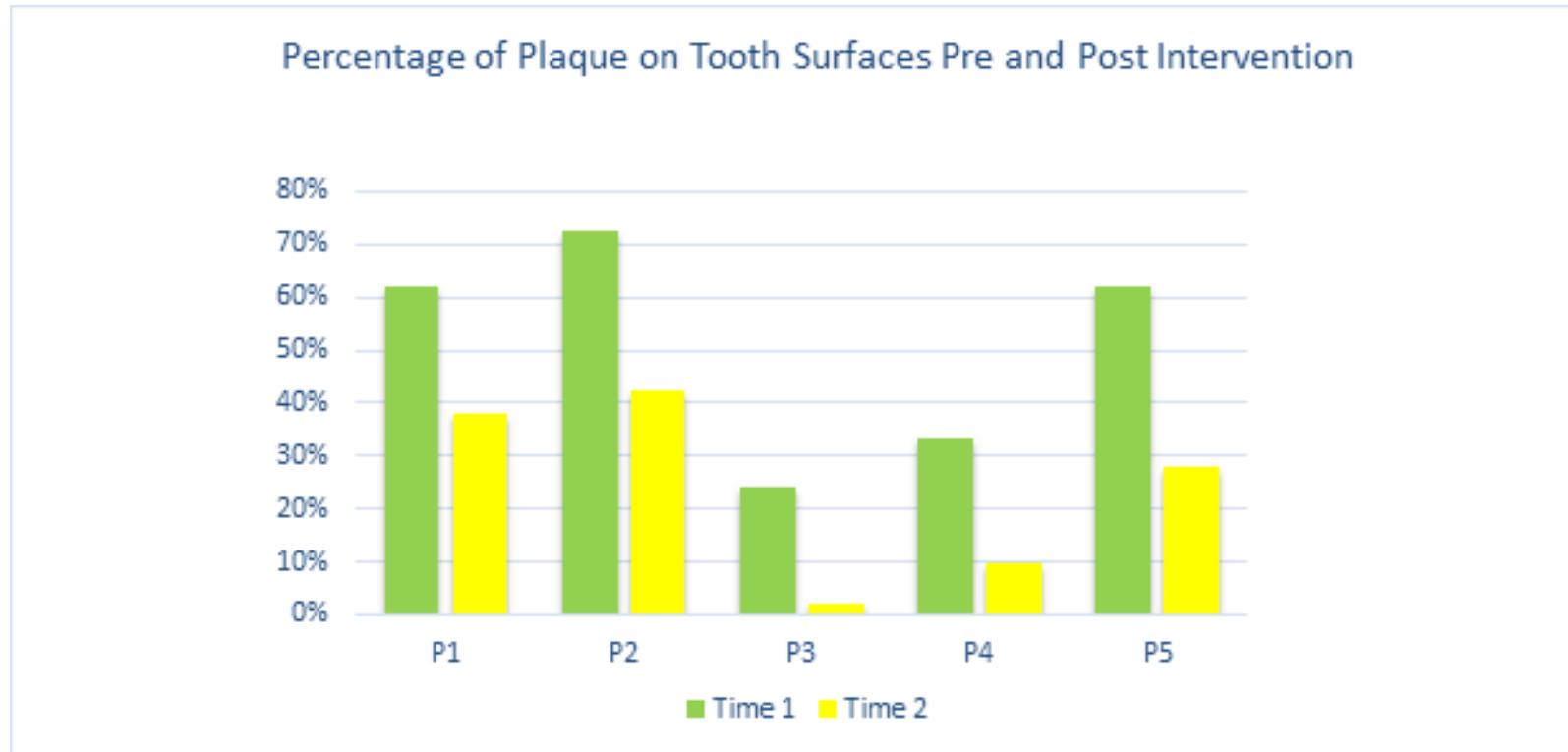
2. Improving Oral Health for Clients with Dementia

- How dementia effects the brain and behavior
- Understanding care-resistant behaviors (CRBs) of clients
- The relationship between oral health and dementia
- Practical strategies to overcome resistance to oral care

Cost: These training are offered FREE in Washington state. If you are located outside of Washington, please contact Karen Lewis at 206.528.7344.



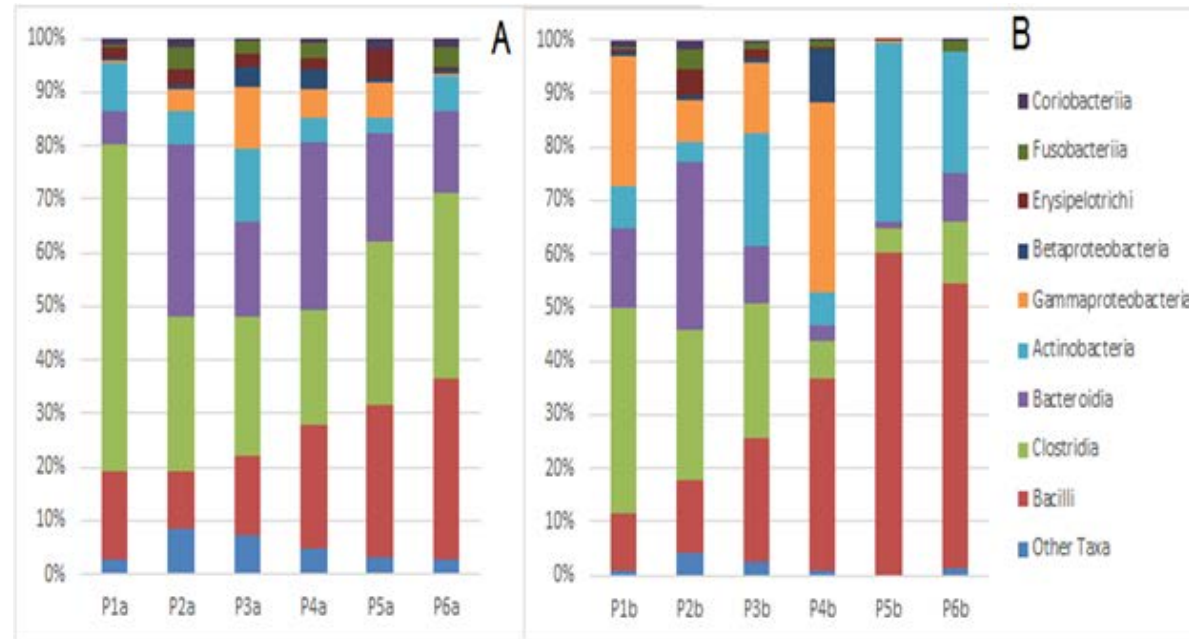
Effect of Once-Daily Brushing*



*Jablonski RA, Winstead V, Azuero A, Ptacek T, Jones-Townsend C, Byrd E, et al. Feasibility of Providing Safe Mouth Care and Collecting Oral and Fecal Microbiome Samples from Nursing Home Residents with Dysphagia: Proof of Concept Study. J Gerontol Nurs. 2017 Sep 1;43(9):9–15.

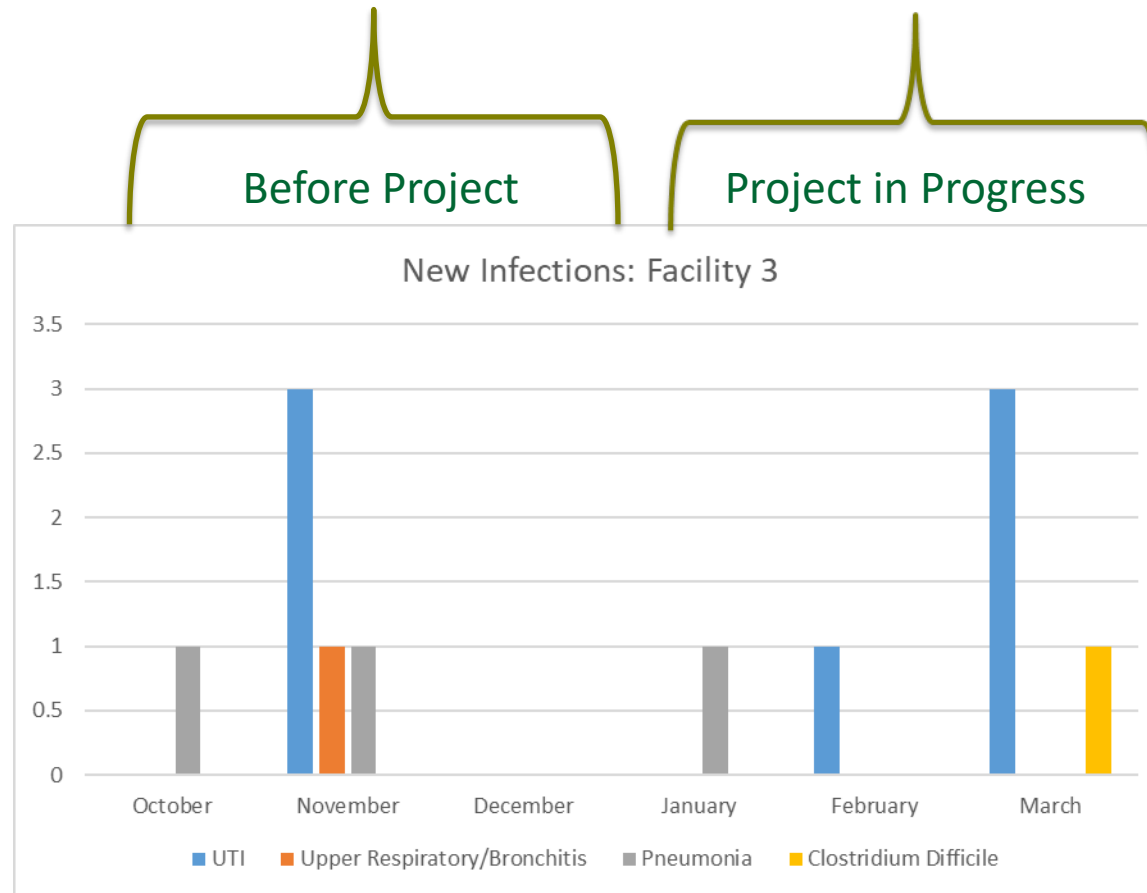
Effect of Once-Daily Brushing*

Bar Chart Depicting Supragingival Plaque Microbiota Composition by Subject, Before (A) and After (B) 4 Days of Once Daily Mouth Care



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“Brushing Away Infections”



Impact of Dental Medicare Benefit

- 6 million people with dementia diagnosis
 - 1.6 million residents in “traditional” long-term care
 - 735k in assisted living facilities
- Current mouth care practices remove “soft plaque”
 - Need for dental benefit for scaling, subgingival plaque removal
 - Implications for improving gut microbiome, infection reductions

Nursing + Dentists + Dental Hygienists= Better Oral and Systemic Health Outcomes

- Nursing Profession as Leaders in LTCF
 - Nurse Practitioners
 - Licensed Nurses (RNs, LPNs)
 - Provide mouth care guidance, education to CNAs
- Medicare Benefit for Preventive Oral Health Services

