

SFHOH3 – SQA Unit Code H4PW 04

Provide chairside support during the assessment of patients' oral health



Overview

This standard is intended for those who act in a chairside support role during the assessment of patients' oral and general health. You will need to prepare the equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments which will be needed for assessment. Subsequently, you will need to provide close support during the assessment of the patient through recording and charting the information which is obtained from an examination of the head, neck, teeth, periodontium and soft tissue, and in interpreting or anticipating the need for further equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments.

Effective communication with patients and other members of the oral health care team, and promoting their health, safety and wellbeing are essential components of this standard. This standard is applicable to oral health workers who provide chairside support during an assessment of patients' oral and general health. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 make available at the chairside the dental charts, records and images which are necessary for the assessment of oral health to be undertaken
- P2 anticipate, select and prepare the equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments which are required for a full clinical assessment of the head, neck and mouth
- P3 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and take other appropriate health and safety measures
- P4 communicate with patients at a level and pace appropriate to them, and answer questions:
 - P4.1 clearly, accurately and concisely
 - P4.2 maximising their understanding, confidence and motivation
 - P4.3 minimising their fear and anxiety
 - P4.4 referring questions or situations which are beyond your role promptly to an appropriate member of the oral healthcare team
- P5 select, offer and prepare the correct equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments at the time when they are required during the clinical assessment
- P6 handle equipment, instruments, materials and medicaments in a manner that minimises the possibility of injury, damage and cross-infection
- P7 continuously monitor the patient as the assessment takes place, identify any complications and take the necessary actions without delay
- P8 record assessments spoken by other team members accurately and legibly using the correct notation on the correct dental charts
- P9 dispose of waste, spillage promptly and in a safe manner and place
- P10 provide the patient with information on the reasons for further assessment or treatment and make the appropriate arrangements for this
- P11 ensure that all records and other appropriate documents are complete, accurate and legible following the procedure
- P12 correctly process and store dental charts, records and images in a manner which maintains their confidentiality

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the purpose of dental assessment and methods of explaining this clearly to patients
- K2 the medical conditions which may affect oral health assessment and treatment
- K3 recognised forms of valid consent and their application before any treatment is undertaken
- K4 the information required for a medical history, and the implications that relevant medical conditions have on dental treatment
- K5 the structure and function of teeth and periodontium including the number of roots
- K6 regional anatomy of the head and neck and dental anatomy
- K7 the function and position of salivary glands, muscles of mastication and facial expression and the examples of diseases which may affect facial movements
- K8 common oral diseases including both malignant and potentially malignant lesions and methods for their diagnosis, prevention and management
- K9 the diagnosis and management of diseases of the facial bones, oral mucosa, of other soft tissues, of the salivary glands and joints
- K10 oral manifestations of systemic diseases and the diagnosis and management of facial pain of dental and non-dental origin
- K11 the effects of ageing upon the oral tissues and the particular needs of the elderly dental patient
- K12 standard precautions and quality standards of infection prevention and control, including personal protective equipment and your role in maintaining them
- K13 safe methods of handling instruments and equipment
- K14 the uses of the different materials used within dental assessment, including impression materials for study models
- K15 methods of measuring pulp vitality and their advantages and disadvantages
- K16 the main classes of drugs which are used in dentistry and the reasons for their use, including analgesics, antibiotics, sedatives/hypnotics, emergency drugs, drugs which reverse the action of other drugs
- K17 the different types of dental record and charts, including personal details, radiographs/photographs and study models for assessment and treatment planning which are used, and the functions of each

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- K18 methods of dental charting
- K19 the terminology and charting notation/charting symbols for tooth surfaces, cavities and particular tooth problems related to the type of dental chart being used
- K20 the reasons for taking radiographs and photographs, both for treatment and for the monitoring of patients
- K21 the types and purposes of orthodontic treatment available and your role in providing support during the assessment and treatment of a patient's occlusion
- K22 the measurements and records taken to record any malocclusion
- K23 the classifications used in recording malocclusion
- K24 methods of communicating clearly with the patient especially when they might be in some discomfort or distress
- K25 how to modify information and communication methods for individuals, including patients with special needs, patients from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds, children and the elderly and where necessary, provide representation for them
- K26 methods of monitoring the physical characteristics of a patient and the signs and symptoms to be aware of to recognise a potential emergency
- K27 how to recognise the signs of injury, abuse or neglect and how to raise concerns with the appropriate person or agency
- K28 health and safety regulations and national policies and procedures
- K29 how to identify that a medical emergency has arisen and provide support both for the individual with the emergency and to those providing immediate management of the emergency
- K30 why it is important that information relating to patients is treated as confidential, and what this means for the storage, recording and disclosure of patient information
- K31 the importance of keeping full contemporaneous records and the legislation and guidelines relating to patients' records and confidentiality
- K32 methods of effective team working in oral health care

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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