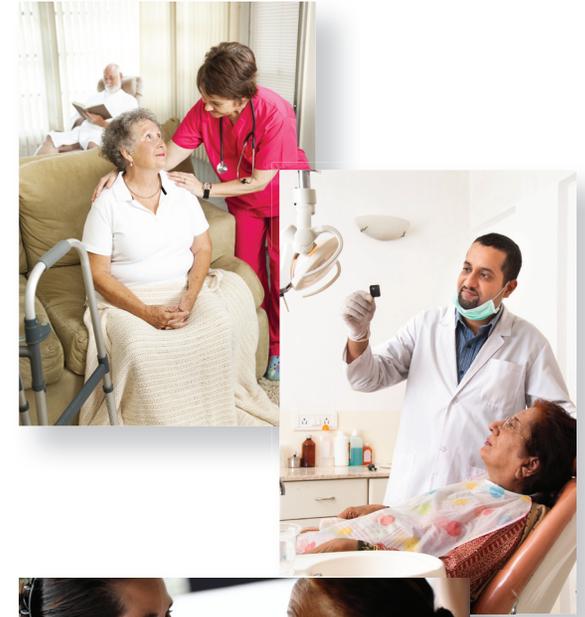


■ Facts About Oral Health And Older Adults

- Two out of three Americans over 65 years of age have multiple chronic health conditions such as hypertension, arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, pneumonia, and cancer.
- People with chronic disease may be at higher risk for periodontal (gum) disease.
- Older people have the highest rate of periodontal disease.
- The risk for root decay increases as people age.
- Sixty-four is the median age for diagnosing oral cancer.
- Very few people over 65 have insurance that covers dental care.
- Seniors often take multiple medications for chronic diseases which increases the likelihood of dry mouth.
- Dry mouth conditions increase the risk of oral disease.

■ Resources

- **American Dental Association**
www.ada.org
- **American Diabetes Association**
www.diabetes.org
- **American Academy of Periodontology** www.perio.org
- **Kansas Dental Association**
www.kda.org
- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention**
www.cdc.gov
- **National Association of Chronic Disease Directors**
www.chronicdisease.org
- **Special Care Dentistry Association**
<http://scdonline.org>
- **Kansas Bureau of Oral Health**
www.kdheks/ohi/
- **Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved**
www.kspca.org
- **Oral Health Kansas**
www.oralhealthkansas.org



HEALTHY AGING

Oral Health Guide For Health Care Providers

Benefits to Using This Tool

- This guide was developed to assist medical, health and geriatric professionals to identify older adults who may be experiencing concerns about their oral conditions.
- On average seniors visit physicians more than five times a year, offering an opportunity for oral screenings.
- This guide can be used to gather information from patients about their concerns and improve communication about their oral health.
- Patients who identify a concern about their oral health will benefit from a suggestion to see a dental professional.
- Patients are grateful when a health care provider asks about their dental concerns.
- Potentially serious problems can be addressed early enough to prevent extensive and expensive treatments.



How to Use This Guide

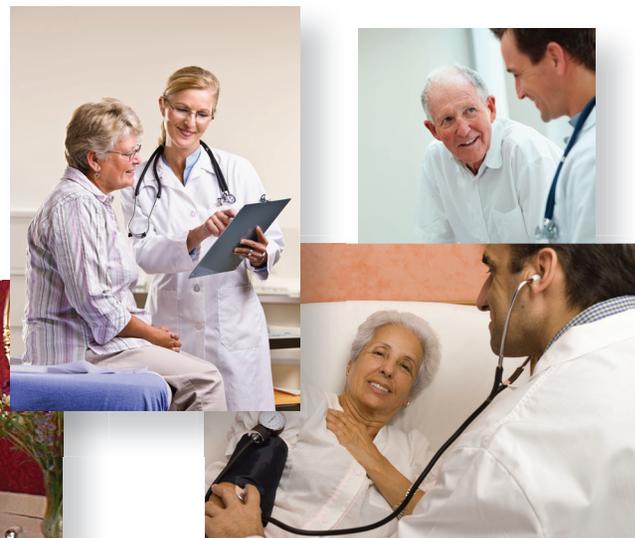
The Oral Health Guide can be used at any time during an appointment with a patient. Since an individual's conditions can change over time, there is benefit to conducting the assessment at initial appointments and follow-up visits.

If patients identify any of these concerns, encourage them to call for an appointment to see a dental professional.

Next Steps

If the patient needs help finding a dentist...

- www.ada.org/ada/findadentist/advancedsearch.aspx
- www.kdheks.gov/ohi/health_care_assist.html



Oral Health Questionnaire

1. Are you being treated for any dental condition?
 Yes No
2. Do you have any pain in your mouth?
 Yes No
3. Do you have pain when chewing food?
 Yes No
4. Do you feel pain in your teeth when eating hot or cold foods?
 Yes No
5. Do your gums ever bleed?
 Yes No
6. Are your gums tender, red or swollen?
 Yes No
7. Do you have any teeth that feel loose?
 Yes No
8. If you have dentures, do they feel loose?
 Yes No
9. Do you have any sores in your mouth that have been there for more than a month?
 Yes No
10. Are you concerned about persistent bad breath?
 Yes No
11. Do you have a difficult time brushing and flossing?
 Yes No
12. Does your mouth often feel dry?
 Yes No