

Supplementary Material S1. Data collection guides

Nursing and Care Staff: Interview Guide

1. How do you prioritize your day?
 - a. When considering all of the Residents' needs and your demanding role, how important is oral health care?
 - i. What is prioritized over oral health?
2. What does oral health mean to you?

Preamble: To situate ourselves and make sure we are both on the same page when we are talking about oral health, I am going to provide you with the definitions of oral health our team is using.

Oral health is defined as the ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow, and confidently convey emotion without pain, discomfort or disease. Oral diseases encompass a range of diseases and conditions that include dental caries, periodontal or gum disease, tooth loss, oral cancer, oro-dental trauma

This binder (*show binder*) outlines the (*name of the institution*) Oral Health Program and guidelines. As noted in the (*name of the institution*) Oral Health Program: Good oral health is important beyond preventing tooth decay and tooth loss, as poor oral health is linked with other serious diseases such as aspiration pneumonia, bacterial endocarditis, stroke, heart disease and sepsis. As well, people with poor oral health often have decreased socialization due to mouth odour, difficulty eating and mouth discomfort.

3. Can you tell me about the (*name of the institution*) oral health guidelines?
 - a. Oral assessment
 - b. Daily mouthcare
 - c. Onboarding/training
4. In general, how would you describe the Residents' oral health?
 - a. How would you describe the difference between good and poor oral health?
 - b. What contributes to these differences?
5. How would you describe your role in caring for the mouth of Resident
 - a. Can you describe how it differs between Residents?
 - b. What do you look for in the Resident's mouth?
 - c. How do you approach daily mouthcare?
 - d. What do you do when there is a concern?
 - i. Seek advice
 - ii. Refer
 - iii. Document

6. What helps you assist with oral care for Residents?
7. What obstacles/challenges or barriers do you face with assisting with oral care for Residents?
8. (*For RNs only*) What prompts you to conduct a formal oral health assessment?
 - a. How often formal assessments are conducted?
 - b. Are you confident in your ability to conduct this formal assessment?
9. (*For RNs only*) What factors do you consider when creating a Resident mouthcare plan?
 - a. Are you confident in your plan?
10. What can you tell me about the staff dental hygienist's role?
 - a. Can you tell me about your experience with the staff dental hygienist?
 - i. What would prompt you to consult or seek the services of the hygienist?
 - ii. Has the onsite staff Dental Hygienist impacted your work/ Resident care?
 - iii. Has the Dalhousie Dental Hygiene students impacted your work/resident care?
11. Can you describe a time that a resident made a comment about how their oral health affected their day-to-day life?
12. Do you have recommendations or suggestions for the (*name of the institution*) to improve Resident oral health?
 - a. For the Dental Hygienist
13. Before we finish, is there anything else you would like to tell me?

Post-Interview Demographic Questionnaire

1. How long have you been in your current position?
2. Have you worked in long-term care before your current role? If so, what roles did you have, and how long were you in the role(s)?
3. Are there any roles you've had (*professionally, volunteer, recreationally, etc.*) that have shaped your answers for today? For example, if you have previously worked as a dental hygienist.
4. What is your gender? Please note that we understand gender as a social identity; therefore, it may be different than your assigned sex at birth.
5. How old are you?
6. Is there something that I did not ask in the interview but feel you would like to tell me?

Continued...

Residents and Family & Friend Caregivers: Interview Guide

1. What does oral health mean to you?
2. Can you tell me about your (*or family member/friend's name*) oral health?
 - a. What do you (*or family member/friend's name*) need to have good oral health?
 - b. What are some of your (*their*) common oral health needs?
 - c. Do you think your (*or family members/friend's name*) oral health needs are met?

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3. Can you tell me about a time when oral health impacted your (*their*) life?
 - a. Have things changed since coming to long-term care?
 - b. Why do you think these differences occurred?
4. Please describe your (*or family member/friend's name*) experience seeking oral health care from a dentist, dental hygienist etc.?
 - a. Has this changed since coming to LTC?
 - b. Why do you think these changes occurred?
 - c. What happens when you have a problem in your (*or family members/friend's name*) mouth?
5. How well is your (*or family members/friend's name*) mouth cared for?
 - a. Facilitators
 - b. Barriers
6. Can you describe a time when accessing oral health care was easy?
7. Can you describe a time when accessing oral health care was difficult?
8. The dental hygienist is a new role at (*name of the institution*). What do you know about this role?

9. Can you tell me about an experience you had where you sought out care from the onsite dental hygienist?
 - a. What led you to seek out this care?
 - b. What difference did receiving this care make?
10. Do you have recommendations or suggestions for the (*name of the institution*) to improve Resident oral health?
 - a. For the Dental Hygienist
11. Before we finish, is there anything else you would like to tell me?

Post-Interview Demographic Questionnaire: Residents

1. How long have you been a resident at (*name of the institution*)?
2. Have you been a resident at any other care homes before being at (*name of the institution*)?
3. Are there any roles you've had (*professionally, volunteer, recreationally, etc.*) that have shaped your answers for today? For example, if you have previously worked as a dental hygienist.
4. What is your gender? Please note that we understand gender as a social identity; therefore, it may be different than your assigned sex at birth.
5. How old are you?
6. Is there something that I did not ask in the interview but feel you would like to tell me?

Post-Interview Demographic Questionnaire: Family & Friend Caregivers

1. How long have you been a caregiver for your loved one?
2. Are there any roles you've had (*professionally, volunteer, recreationally, etc.*) that have shaped your answers for today? For example, if you have previously worked as a dental hygienist.
3. What is your gender? Please note that we understand gender as a social identity; therefore, it may be different than your assigned sex at birth.
4. How old are you?
5. What is your gender? Please note that we understand gender as a social identity; therefore, it may be different than your assigned sex at birth.
6. Is there something that I did not ask in the interview but feel you would like to tell me?

CITATION

Hachey SM, Crouse HA, Affoo RH, D'Souza V, Huntley MM, Symes-Osmond NL, Wade AWL, Wright TL. Oral health assessment and care practices in long-term care: a convergent mixed methods study. *Can J Dent Hyg.* 2026;60(2):91-102.