

Affecting Assisted Living Oral Health Care

A TALE OF ATTENDING A CLASS
WE WERE NOT MEANT TO ATTEND
TO AFFECTING OVER 1500
PEOPLE

Joy Laudick RN

Director of Clinical Quality

I have no conflict(s) with commercial interest companies to disclose.

Senior Housing Management

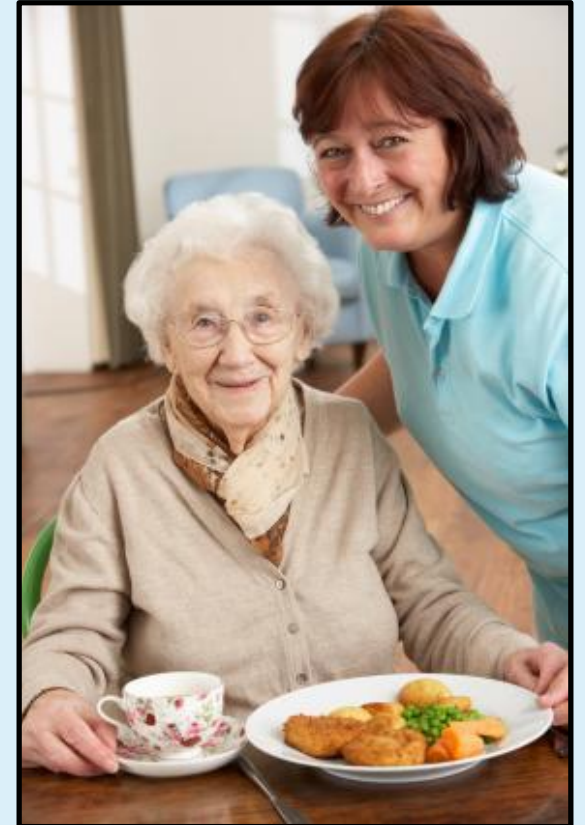
We are the largest Iowa based Assisted Living management company.

From 14 communities 4 years ago to 26 last Dec to 67 currently, we are expanding!

My tale starts with my supervisor offering 2 of the nursing team up to teach Prepare to Care for the company. This led us to host a Mouth Care Matters class in one of my communities.

Good Oral Health Allows People To:

- Eat healthy food for good nutrition
- Chew food for healthy digestion
- Taste and enjoy food
- Speak clearly to interact with others
- Feel good about themselves
- Maintain an attractive appearance
- Overall health. Data shows that poor oral care contributes to Diabetes.



Diabetes and Oral Health Care

- There is a direct link between poor oral care.
- When blood sugar levels are not controlled , this can affect decay and gum disease which then affects blood sugar levels like a loop.
- Another side effect of these two factors can be altered sense of taste, which then can decrease food intake.

The tale grows...

After getting as many direct care staff to the MCM classes around the state, we held a MCM class for our nurses. We needed their buy in as a driver to keep the direct care staff excitement up. Our next step was to drive a better or any oral assessment in with our nursing assessments. We worked with Mary Ann and Carol and rolled this out soon after our class, we added interventions and soon were asking families to provide us better oral health supplies.

Outcomes:

Better oral health for our residents that depend on us.

Increased amount of reminders to those independent with cares. Provided health risk reminders to these residents.

Increased strategies for oral care given by our staff.

Multiple referrals to dentists.

Increased comfort for residents

Better oral care for trained staff and their families.

Direct Care Professionals Comments

- *I plan on really making time to do oral care because I see how important it is. I will have better time management.*
- *I am going to try to clean resident's tongue.*
- *Check to make sure their gums aren't red or inflamed.*
- *Make sure residents have all oral hygiene products they need available along with assistive devices.*
- *Share education with co-workers*
- *How to handle a difficult situation if the elder refuses mouth care.*

4,458

- THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LIVES IMPACTED BY MCM GRADUATES
- NURSING HOME RESIDENTS & RECIPIENTS OF HOME CARE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROGRAM:

■ CONTACT:

Mary Ann Young: MaryAnn@iowacaregivers.org

Carol Van Aernam: cvanaernam@aol.com

www.iowacaregivers.org