

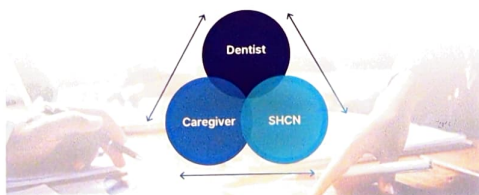
Improving Oral Health by Behavior Change: Use of "MySmileguideU"

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Abstract

The primary aim of this project is to enhance the health and well-being of individuals with Special Health Care Needs in eastern North Carolina by improving their oral health through the implementation of a behavioral model.

Triangular Relationship among Dentist- SHCN-Caregiver



Teledentistry visit



Patient Medical Record

Methodology

- Pre-Dental Visit Meeting:**
 - Conduct a pre-dental visit meeting between the dentist and the parents/caregivers via teledentistry.
 - Discuss potential areas of concern and identify perceived health benefits.
 - Schedule this meeting during the week before the dental visit.
- Follow-Up: New Patient Visit**
 - Revisit identified concerns and beliefs during subsequent dental visits.
 - Assess the effectiveness of the intervention by examining changes in oral health behaviors and outcomes.
 - O'leary Index, Demonstrate oral hygiene practice
- Evaluation:**
 - Determine visible plaque and bleeding on probing during the first visit.
 - O'leary Index, Demonstrate oral hygiene practice
 - Conduct follow-up evaluations at 3 and 6 months to assess improvements in preventive in-home practices.
- Comparison:**
 - Analyze data to evaluate the success of the behavioral intervention by indepth interview



Implications

This project will test the application of the Health Belief Model in managing SHCN patients in a dental setting. By addressing perceptions of risk, severity, benefits, and barriers, the project aims to foster better oral health behaviors and outcomes, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being of this special population in eastern North Carolina.