

Mouth Cancer Quality Improvement Tool

Introduction

This tool has been developed by HEIW to help primary care dental teams to consider factors relevant to mouth cancer and the needs of their patients. It is designed to be used by the whole practice team - all members of the dental team, clinical and non-clinical, may have a role in providing care and advice to patients

Background

More than 60% of mouth cancer patients in Wales are diagnosed at stage 3 or 4. Early stage diagnosis is associated with improved survival rate, and cancers detected when they are smaller than 2cm in diameter are associated with better prognosis.

AIM

The main aim of the Mouth Cancer QI Tool is to support dental teams to improve their contribution towards early diagnosis of mouth cancer.

OBJECTIVES

Use of the Mouth Cancer QI tool and reflection on findings should lead to:

- Identification of need for training on mouth cancer including how to discuss urgent suspected cancer with patients. The tool includes information on resources and training available for practices
- All team members being updated on the main risk factors and protective factors for mouth cancer
- Improved assessment and record keeping on soft tissue examination and discussion of risk factors
- Raised patient awareness about risk and protective factors for mouth cancer including the most common early signs of mouth cancer and the need to attend for oral assessment
- Provision of targeted prevention for those identified at high risk of developing mouth cancer including delivery of brief intervention and referral to appropriate services (e.g. smoking cessation services)
- Reflection and learning from feedback when patients are referred for specialist opinion / treatment of soft tissue abnormalities and urgent suspected cancers (e.g. Case based discussion with colleagues, peer review of oral medicine patients etc)
- Self-assurance that the dental team does all it can to reduce risk of mouth cancer for their 'practice population' and reduce the risk of late diagnosis
- Practice exploring opportunities to establish referral pathways between the dental practice and other local primary and social care teams (e.g. to accept referral of patients from GMS, pharmacy, social care teams for dental assessment and vice versa)

This tool has 5 sections:

1. Identifying Patient Risk Factors – Clinical Assessment
2. Discussing Risk, Providing Advice and Information
3. Patients with Malignant or Potentially Malignant Conditions
4. Health Promotion and Public Health
5. Training and education

For the majority of sections respondents are expected to identify the level of confidence within the team for addressing each point:

Green Confident	Amber Somewhat Confident	Red Not at all Confident
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Further columns ask the team to identify what they can do to make improvements, and what training and resources are available to provide support:

What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
Use this column to describe actions to raise standards in the practice to meet the green level	This provides links to specific resources and information to support the team.

1. Identifying Patient Risk Factors and Clinical Assessments

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
<p>The medical, social and drug history identifies risk factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoking and tobacco products Chewing betel nut (or similar) Alcohol Exposure to sunlight (may be occupationally related) HPV Vaccine for relevant age group 					<p>HEIW GP CPD Online module https://gpcpd.walesdeanery.org/index.php/2013-04-26-10-19-55/mouth-cancer-home-page</p> <p>Cancer Research UK and BDA Oral Cancer Toolkit https://www.doctors.net.uk/eClientopen/CRUK/oral_cancer_toolkit_open/home.html</p> <p>NICE Guidance https://cks.nice.org.uk/head-and-neck-cancers-recognition-and-referral</p> <p>Tobacco Control Action Plan for Wales https://beta.gov.wales/tobacco-control-plan-wales-2017-2020</p>
Intra and extra oral examination includes all soft tissues/head and neck					

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
Findings are comprehensively recorded in patient record i.e.; Record if abnormality detected or not					
Clinical photographs taken if required					

2. Discussing Risks and Providing Advice and Information

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
For patients with identified risk factors:					<p>HEIW Smoking Cessation Audit https://dental.walesdeanery.org/quality-improvement/national-audit-projects/integrating-smoking-cessation</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team members discuss the risks and provide advice and guidance 					<p>Help Me Quit website https://www.helpmequit.wales/</p> <p>NICE Recall guidance https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg19/chapter/Introduction</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All smokers who are interested in quitting are referred to “Help Me Quit” using the on-line referral system 					<p>GP CPD Open learning module on Smoking Cessation: https://gpcpd.walesdeanery.org/index.php/effective-brief-interventions-in-smoking-cessation</p> <p>National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training: http://elearning.ncsct.co.uk/vba_wales-launch</p> <p>NHS E-learning (MECC – Making Every Contact Count): https://learning.wales.nhs.uk/login/index.php</p> <p>Public Health Network https://mecc.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/resources/lifestyle-info/smoking/ https://www.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en/social-determinants/lifestyle/behaviour-change/making-every-contact-count/</p>

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients are recalled at appropriate intervals 					NICE Guidance – Behaviour Change: Individual Approaches https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph49/chapter/About-this-guidance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For patients with abnormalities that require monitoring in the practice, systems are in place to assess the patient regularly and ensure non-attendance is followed up 					'Have a word' alcohol campaign http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/89113

3. Patients with Malignant or Potentially Malignant Disorders
Practice teams are expected to provide routine care throughout their treatment

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
All patients are referred using e-referral system					<p>E-Referral System route https://www.dental-referrals.nhs.wales/dentists/cancer/</p> <p>British Society for Disability and Oral Health http://www.bsdh.org/documents/pBSDH_RCS Oncol Radio BMT update 2012.pdf</p> <p>Mouth Care Matters How to provide care for patients with a dry mouth http://www.mouthcarematters.hee.nhs.uk/?p=1814</p> <p>NICE cancer referral guidelines https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng12</p>
Systems are in place in the practice to:					
a) track referral to ensure patients are seen within two weeks					
b) ensure ongoing management of patients includes recall in the practice at appropriate intervals					
c) identify non-attendance at the practice which is noted and followed up					

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
d) ensure communications/ recommendations from secondary care are incorporated into patient's care and notes					
e) The clinical team reflect on all aspects of care for patients who are confirmed as having mouth cancer – including initial assessment, advice, referral, aftercare in practice, feedback from secondary care services.					

4. Health Promotion and Public Health

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
The Practice team engages with Mouth Cancer Action Month					<p>Mouth Cancer Action Month https://www.dentalhealth.org/Pages/Category/mouth-cancer-action-month</p> <p>HPV NHSDW information https://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/livewell/vaccinations/HPVvaccine/ https://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/doityourself/vaccinations/HPVVacMen?locale=en</p> <p>Changing Faces charity https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/</p> <p>Mouth Cancer Foundation https://www.mouthcancerfoundation.org/</p> <p>Cheshire & Merseyside Local Oral Cancer Care Guide https://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/cheshire-and-merseyside-wider-ldn/local-guides/local-oral-cancer-care-guide/view</p> <p>BDJ article Mouth Cancer: presentation, detection and referral in primary dental care. https://www.nature.com/articles/sj.bdj.2018.931</p>
The Practice team promotes uptake of HPV vaccination by target groups					
The Practice team liaises with Health board groups and LDC to improve local networks and pathways (oral medicine/oral cancer.)					

5. Training and Education for all Team Members

All team members have had up-to-date mouth cancer awareness training during the last 24 months:	TRAINED AND CAN EVIDENCE (INITIALS)	NEED TRAINING (INITIALS)	Training and resources to support the team
Dentists			Enhanced CPD scheme https://www.gdc-uk.org/professionals/cpd/enhanced-cpd HEIW GP CPD Online module https://gpcpd.walesdeanery.org/index.php/2013-04-26-10-19-55/mouth-cancer-home-page
Dental hygienist & therapists			
Dental Nurses			
Non-clinical staff			

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
Dentists and other clinical team members feel able to detect and record abnormalities (which may be mouth cancer)					HEIW GP CPD Online module https://gpcpd.walesdeanery.org/index.php/2013-04-26-10-19-55/mouth-cancer-home-page



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Improvement Wales (HEIW)

	Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not at all Confident	What can we do?	Training and resources to support the team
Team members feel able to discuss these abnormalities with patients, carers and relatives					<p>Cancer Research UK and BDA Oral Cancer Toolkit https://www.doctors.net.uk/eClientopen/CRUK/oral_cancer_toolkit_open/home.html</p> <p>Dental e-referral system https://www.dental-referrals.nhs.wales/dentists/</p>
Dentists and other clinical team members feel able to discuss pathway and potential outcomes with patients who are being referred as urgent suspected cancer (USC).					<p>Oral Medicine Referral Guide https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wales.nhs.uk%2Fdopen%2F350240%2F&data=01%7C01%7CSivarajasingam%40cardiff.ac.uk%7C7b6ce1d0160742324cc308d741a8c9b4%7Cbdb74b3095684856bdbf06759778fcbc%7C1&sdata=YhiLe187OI00QAAG3fd3xc%2F%2FfpT1KoeotkZoriTZNjU%3D&reserved=0</p>