

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #6

1. Title:

Improving oral health for older people in the home care setting: an implementation study

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3. Key words:

Pre-post implementation study, aged, home care services, oral health quality improvement

4. Abstract text:

a. Background and aims

Poor oral health compromises healthy ageing as it impacts on an older person's quality of life and general health. With future estimates predicting 80% of formal aged care will be provided in the home care setting, home care delivery will become more complex as it strives to meet the needs of older people with multiple co-morbidities, diabetes and dementia. Equally the necessity for good oral health must become a higher priority.

The aim of the study was to explore how home care providers can support older people to maintain good oral health through appropriate assessment, care plan development, service delivery and referral to dental care.

b. Methods

The Promoting Action on Research Implementation in Health Services (PARIHS) framework informed the implementation of a model called Better Oral Health in Home Care (BOHHC). A mixed method, pre-post implementation study was used.

c. Results

High levels of dental need were identified. Improvements in older people's oral health were reported following the development of tailored home care strategies to build home care organisational and workforce oral health capacity

d. Conclusion

The BOHHC model provided a quality improvement framework for community based prevention and early detection of oral health problems. Improving oral health for older people in the home care setting has practice and policy implications which require ongoing inter-sectorial facilitation involving aged care, vocational health education and dental sectors.