

Oral Health in Medicine Competencies for the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum

Domains (8) General Oral Health Screening; Dental Caries; Periodontal Disease; Oral Cancer and Prevention; Oral-Systemic Health Interactions; Public Health; Emergency Care; and Medical Dental Interface

Domain Competency Statements

DOMAIN 1 GENERAL ORAL HEALTH SCREENING

Apply foundational knowledge of oral health to perform basic assessment screening and diagnoses.

DOMAIN 2 DENTAL CARIES

Evaluate for and communicate with patients and families the risks and consequences of untreated dental caries.

DOMAIN 3 PERIODONTAL DISEASE

Apply knowledge of periodontal disease in the health management strategy of patient care.

DOMAIN 4 ORAL CANCER AND PREVENTION

Apply oral health cancer screening and prevention guidelines in health assessment and exams.

DOMAIN 5 ORAL-SYSTEMIC HEALTH INTERACTIONS

Integrate knowledge of oral health impact on systemic health and disease into patient care.

DOMAIN 6 PUBLIC HEALTH

Work with health professionals and community partners to emphasize health benefits and effective disease and injury prevention strategies.

DOMAIN 7 EMERGENCY CARE

Apply first line management to stabilize oral emergencies and traumas to point of appropriate referral.

DOMAIN 8 MEDICAL DENTAL INTERFACE

Optimize oral health and treatment outcomes through effective outreach and collaboration with dental professionals.

Competency Domains and Sub-competencies

DOMAIN 1 GENERAL ORAL HEALTH SCREENING - Apply foundational knowledge of oral health to perform basic assessment screening and diagnoses.

- G1 Demonstrate basic knowledge of dental anatomy, histology, and embryology.
- G2 Perform a basic extraoral/intraoral screening exam for pathology, including oral cancer.
- G3 Identify key oral health issues across the lifespan (i.e., for infants, children, adolescents, pregnant women, adults, geriatric and special needs populations).
- G4 Conduct a basic oral health history including signs and symptoms of common oral diseases and their risk factors.
- G5 Assess patients' basic knowledge of oral health importance.

DOMAIN 2 DENTAL CARIES – Evaluate for and communicate with patients and families the risks and consequences of untreated dental caries.

- D1 Describe biofilm, the caries process, and its sequelae.
- D2 Screen dentition for evidence of dental caries on visual exam.
- D3 Counsel parents about the importance of primary teeth for their children.
- D4 Recognize the role physicians play in oral health promotion, disease prevention, and triage/treatment of disease, including appropriate routine care and specialty attention referral recommendations.
- D5 Assess dental caries risk factors ((socioeconomic status, diet and feeding practices (includes sugared medications or those causing xerostomia)), oral hygiene, caries history self/family, lack of fluoridation, lack of access to dental care, and associated substance abuse impact.
- D6 Counsel about the dental caries process and prevention (i.e., diet/nutrition and feeding practices, fluoride and oral hygiene, including brushing with fluoridated toothpaste and flossing.
- D7 Counsel mothers about transmission of cariogenic bacteria to infants and need for maternal oral health care during pregnancy.
- D8 Perform fluoride varnish procedure, cognizant of the risks, benefits, and indications.

DOMAIN 3 PERIODONTAL DISEASE -Apply knowledge of periodontal disease in the health management strategy of patient care.

- PD1 Describe periodontal diseases and their sequelae (i.e., including links to diabetes, cardiac disease and pregnancy outcomes).
- PD2 Identify periodontal diseases on examination.
- PD3 Counsel patients regarding periodontal disease prevention (i.e., smoking/tobacco/diabetes; oral hygiene, including brushing and flossing; role of medications in treating; or promoting periodontal disease).
- PD4 Integrate periodontal health and importance of dental care counseling in prenatal care.

DOMAIN 4 ORAL CANCER AND PREVENTION - Apply oral health cancer screening and prevention guidelines in health assessment and exams.

- OCP1 Screen for oral malignancies and pre-cancerous lesions on extraoral/intraoral exam.
- OCP2 Assess risk factors for malignancy (i.e., smoking, tobacco/alcohol use, and HPV).
- OCP3 Counsel patients about prevention strategies (i.e., prevention/cessation of smoking, tobacco, and alcohol use).

DOMAIN 5 ORAL-SYSTEMIC HEALTH INTERACTIONS - Integrate knowledge of oral health impact on systemic health and disease into patient care.

- OSH1 Counsel patients on the linkage between oral health/disease and systemic health/disease (i.e., periodontal diseases and cardiovascular/diabetes/pregnancy outcomes, alcoholism, etc.).
- OSH2 Monitor reciprocal impact of nutrition on oral health and of oral health conditions on nutrition.
- OSH3 Recognize impact of drugs and medical therapies on oral health (including: candidiasis, dental caries, periodontal disease, and xerostomia).
- OSH4 Recognize treatment needs for oral conditions associated with AIDS, chemotherapy, and chronic conditions.
- OSH5 Recognize common oral pathology and significance (i.e., herpes and other STIs, aphthous ulcers, bony tori, high-arched palate in infants vs. clefts of hard/soft palate, severe micrognathia/ Robin sequence, and significant malocclusion).
- OSH6 Recognize other health issues presenting in the orofacial region (including domestic violence/child abuse, bleeding disorders, Sjorgrens, leukemia, and candidiasis/HIV-AIDS).
- OSH7 Apply guidelines for endocarditis prevention and anticoagulation for dental procedures.

DOMAIN 6 PUBLIC HEALTH - Work with health professionals and community partners to emphasize health benefits and effective disease and injury prevention strategies.

- P1 Describe the epidemiology of caries, periodontitis, oral cancer, and common oral trauma.
- P2 Describe patient populations at increased risk for oral diseases (i.e., low socioeconomic status/minority status, adolescents, special needs/disabilities, genetic predisposition(s), rural or underserved areas).
- P3 Describe barriers to access/utilization of dental services (i.e., lack of insurance or providers, cultural/geographic issues, dental fears, etc.).
- P4 Communicate the importance and safety of community water fluoridation.
- P5 Promote trauma prevention strategies, especially related to sports injury, and appropriate safety equipment such as mouth guards.
- P6 Promote prenatal screening for pregnant women.
- P7 Promote early childhood caries as an infectious disease.
- P8 Counsel on risks of oral piercings.

DOMAIN 7 EMERGENCY CARE - Apply first line management to stabilize oral emergencies and traumas to point of appropriate referral.

- E1 Triage basic dental trauma (i.e., avulsed teeth, fractures, intrusions, etc.).
- E2 Manage common dental emergencies (i.e., pain, swelling, bleeding, infection) to appropriate referral.
- E3 Develop a diagnostic approach to the patient presenting with oral pain that includes both intraoral and extraoral causes.

DOMAIN 8 MEDICAL DENTAL INTERFACE - Optimize oral health and treatment outcomes through effective outreach and collaboration with dental professionals.

- I1 Work collaboratively with dental professionals to foster a climate of mutual respect and shared values centered on the oral healthcare needs of patients and populations served.
- I2 Describe the roles and responsibilities of dentists, dental hygienists, and, when applicable, those expanded state/locale health functions provided by dental practitioners.
- I3 Recognize the areas of specialization in dentistry (i.e., endodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, oral medicine, oral surgery, orthodontics, and prosthodontics).

- I4 Apply the knowledge of one's own role and those of dental professionals to appropriately assess and address the oral and overall healthcare needs of the patients and populations.
- I5 Support a team approach to oral, overall health maintenance, and treatment needs through responsive and respectful communication with patients, families, and dental professionals.
- I6 Apply team dynamic principles to plan and deliver patient-/population-centered oral health care that is safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.