

Expert testimony to inform NICE guideline development

Section A: Developer to complete

Name:	Victoria Elliot
Role:	Topic Expert Committee Member PHAC E
Institution/Organisation (where applicable):	The Orders of St John Care Trust
Contact information:	████████████████████
Guideline title:	Oral health in care homes
Guideline Committee:	Public Health Advisory Committee E
Subject of expert testimony:	Views from care home managers on the acceptability of <i>The Oral Health Assessment Tool</i> (Chalmers et al 2005*) for use by non-medical care staff in care homes in England: Rapid Response
Evidence gaps or uncertainties:	There is no standardised, validated, oral health assessment tool available for use by non-medical care home staff in care homes in England.

Section B: Expert to complete

Summary testimony: Views of care home managers on the acceptability/use of the *Oral Health Assessment Tool* (Chalmers et al 2005*): Rapid response. Commentators names used below with their kind permission.

Abstract: In the absence of any formal evaluation of the acceptability of the Oral Health Assessment Tool (see Chalmers et al 2005*) in England, the topic expert VE, agreed, on behalf of the Public Health Advisory Committee to ask the opinion of care home managers in current practice.

A pdf version of an article reporting the validity and reliability of the Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT) together with a request for their opinion, was circulated, in confidence, to a small number of experienced care home managers in current practice. The unedited responses are set out below and were tabled for the committee to consider at the meeting on the 9th September 2015. (*NICE Note: Permission to include names of each respondent has since been given*).

Observation from VE: *In essence all feel it would be ok to use, though I feel that comments with regard to the need for clarification of some of the terms are accurate.*

Commentator 1 – Jean Bamber @SC
While I appreciate the need for guidelines regarding "oral health in care homes" after reading the assessment tool and accompanying paperwork feel that the tool being

used in Australia is possibly too in depth for our Residents and Carers, though with adequate training the carers would be able to complete the form correctly.

In [XXXXX] we are fortunate in having good access to a dentist and do not have any problem getting Residents seen straight away when required, my other concern is how many Residents would actually benefit or agree to this type of examination by carers.

End

Commentator 2 – Conny McGowan@H

I've read through the article and 'yes' I feel that carers and seniors could use this assessment tool. I think the 8 categories are straight forward and also the scoring of 0 - 2 seems simple enough. I found the comments from the carers very interesting, they had undertaken a three hour training programme, but felt they needed a re-usable, tangible visual training resource pack to refer back to. This is important, if you want carers to do a job then they need the tools for it. Carers also mentioned that more training might be needed for residents with behavioural difficulties. I also found the aspect about better integration of care plans concerning dental issues good, as we at Hxxx mention teeth and dentures in care plan 3, but don't really have any tool to base our findings on. Also, at Hxxxx we have a dentist coming every 6 months, but sometimes residents won't open their months, so to have a tool for the carers to use on admission and months after would be very helpful. In particular, I feel it could be part of the key-worker role, as they are the ones who build up a relationship with the resident and it might become second nature, as one of the carers in the article explained.

Hope this has been helpful,

End

Commentator 3 Beverley Cooke @SH

I've looked through it and it looks ok and think staff would be able to follow the tables / charts easily.

Commentator 4 Charlotte Molesworth @PL

I have used a similar OHAT before, and developed my own tool to use in a previous care home. I think it would be a good and useful tool to use. So please "count us in ". I think some training would be useful for the staff on how to use this initially.

Commentator 5 Wendy Cyprus @FC

I have looked at the OHAT, I feel that it is a good idea which will help the Carers, Seniors and Head of Cares identify any problems and be more aware of dental hygiene. The tool is easy to use and straight forward but I feel that some of the statements may need to be worded differently or have the meanings beside them, which you may have looked at. For example the words sticky tissues, tissues parched and fissure. I hope this helps.

END

Reference: *The Oral Health Assessment Tool: Validity and Reliability.* Chalmers JM, King PL, Spencer AJ, Wright FA, Carter AD. Australian Dental Journal 2005;50(3):191-199

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