Annual Report: Dental Health Screenings for Senior Citizens

State Submission Annual Reporting Period: **October 2014 - September 2015**

- Notifications Sent Beginning: **Various**
- Number of Patients Served: 33

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Service</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Site Address</th>
<th>Total Patients Screened</th>
<th>Dental Screenings</th>
<th>Dental Referrals</th>
<th>High Blood Pressure Screenings</th>
<th>High Blood Pressure Referrals</th>
<th>Diabetes HBA1C Screenings</th>
<th>Diabetes HBA1C Referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 24, 2015</td>
<td>Manhattanville Houses Senior Center</td>
<td>530 West 133rd Street New York, NY 10027</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21, 2015</td>
<td>Grant Houses Senior Center</td>
<td>1301 Amsterdam Avenue New York, NY 10027</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** | **33** | **29** | **19** | **32** | **6** | **4** | **3**

In accordance with our commitment, Columbia University offers dental health screenings to seniors living in Grant Houses and Manhattanville Houses. As of 2010, high blood pressure and diabetes screenings are now offered as part of the services provided.

Site visits are coordinated in conjunction with the Senior Center and the Dental Services professionals.

At each event Dr. [name] does a PowerPoint presentation on “Oral Health in Later Life”. The subject matters covered include oral hygiene instructions, the proper care of dentures, causes and implications of having a dry mouth, causes and implications of having high blood pressure, and symptoms and implications of diabetes. Ms. [name] is present to translate the presentation in Spanish.

**Additional Supporting Documentation**

- Copies of public notifications and/or announcements of services
About ElderSmile™

There is a crisis in oral healthcare emerging in this country: a large segment of the elderly population has no access to the dental care they need. Unfortunately, although oral health is even more important for the elderly because they are especially susceptible to dental disease, they often face financial, physical and emotional barriers that have made them one of the most underserved populations in regard to dental care.

In response to this critical situation, the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine has launched the ElderSmile™ program. ElderSmile is being developed to address the need for a comprehensive approach to the oral health care needs of older adults and it is intended to serve as a prototype for other dental schools and healthcare centers. The ElderSmile program seeks not only to provide a full range of dental services to senior citizens in the communities surrounding the Columbia University Medical Center, but also to develop specialized educational programs focused on geriatric oral healthcare and to pursue research and policy initiatives that enlighten and address the situation.

VISION:

Every senior citizen should have access to the dental care they need and want, provided by dental professionals who have received appropriate training and possess the requisite skills.

MISSION:

The ElderSmile program will mobilize the resources of the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine with other healthcare providers and community organizations to provide dental services to the senior population in Northern Manhattan and its environs. The program will develop a replicable educational and service structure to assure that more dental professionals have the expertise and opportunity to provide the necessary care to this population. We will also further geriatric dentistry by providing insight into geriatric oral health, including the relationship between oral and systemic health, and by advancing meaningful policy initiatives on the local, regional and national levels.
While America’s elderly are retaining their own teeth in record numbers, a large number of those over the age of 65 receive no dental care. This exposes them to serious dental, medical and psychosocial problems. Seniors are not only at an increased risk for gum disease and dental decay, they are also faced with consequences such as chronic pain, loss of ability to chew food, poor nutrition, and the social stigma of missing and unsightly teeth. When oral infections arise and go untreated, seniors face a heightened risk of cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, diabetes mellitus and respiratory disease. The incidence of oral cancer in the senior population is greater than for any other age group and the lack of proper screening and early diagnosis has deadly consequences.

A number of factors contribute to why the elderly are so underserved in dental care. The barriers that exist include physical disabilities, lack of transportation, ignorance as to the role of oral health in general health, and even fear. The fact that Medicare and (in the vast majority of states) Medicaid programs do not cover dental services leaves many seniors having to fund their own care—an expense many of them cannot afford. These factors make a compelling argument for coming to the aid of those who, through no fault of their own, have no access to dental care.

Unfortunately, while the dental profession has made the lack of access to care one of its highest priorities, few of the planned solutions address the senior population. It is time for the fast-growing elderly population to be recognized as a prime focus in the dental profession’s mission to assure every person’s right to oral health services. It is with this in mind that the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine has committed itself to the development and success of the ElderSmile program.
Since its establishment, the dental school of Columbia has been a leader in advancing the science and practice of dentistry through groundbreaking research, progressive education and steady advocacy for improving access to care. Columbia has led the way in research since the early 1930s, with studies into the cause and prevention of dental decay and later with a PhD Basic Science Fellowship Program for dentists. In 1983, Columbia introduced geriatric education in the pre-doctoral curriculum.

Columbia has championed many initiatives that have elevated oral health issues to national prominence. The institution contributed to the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health, the first ever report on dental issues, and serves today as the national program office for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's “Pipeline, Profession and Practice” program, which supports dental schools in establishing community-based clinical education programs and the recruitment of minority and low-income students.

The Columbia University College of Dental Medicine runs the DentCare program, which provides dental services to another underserved population: at-risk children in the Washington Heights and Central Harlem communities of New York City. ElderSmile’s care component is modeled on the DentCare service program, which has already served tens of thousands of children via a combination of outpatient facilities and community outreach programs. DentCare’s outstanding working relationships with community healthcare providers, civic organizations and influential policymakers are the solid foundation upon which Columbia is forging new strategic partnerships on behalf of the elderly population. Due to a lack of similar initiatives, the ElderSmile program also plans to build strong education, research and policy initiatives.
A natural extension of the school’s longstanding tradition of providing dental care to the underserved, the ElderSmile program will deliver a broad range of dental services to the elderly population throughout Northern Manhattan and the surrounding neighborhoods. ElderSmile services include preventative oral health education, dental screening, routine checkups and restorative dental procedures. The program emphasizes early intervention as a critical factor in reducing the incidence of dental and medical diseases and improving the overall quality of life among seniors.

Of paramount importance is the ability to offer exceptional care that respects and addresses the special physical, emotional, medical and oral health needs of those over age 65. The program’s treatment protocols are designed to be sensitive to diverse cultural backgrounds, values and belief systems. ElderSmile’s expanding network of compassionate dental service providers incorporates:

- Outreach programs serving senior centers and nursing care facilities
- Prevention sites providing oral health education and screening, linked to community-based practices offering a full suite of dental services
- An interdisciplinary approach at strategically located treatment sites providing comprehensive healthcare to older patients

Every student at the dental school takes courses covering geriatric dentistry; the goal is to offer expanded coursework and a formal postdoctoral training program in geriatric dentistry

Students can pursue geriatric dentistry as an area of concentration

Students and residents gain valuable experience treating older patients by working at ElderSmile outreach programs and facilities that take an interdisciplinary approach to health and dental care

Columbia offers a popular continuing education program for practicing dentists and dental hygienists
Research

The history of the College of Dental Medicine is rich with significant contributions to the evolution of modern dental research: both the American Association for Dental Research and the *Journal of Dental Research* were founded here. Through ElderSmile, Columbia renews its commitment to pursuing research that sheds light on the oral healthcare needs of the elderly and contributes to the development of technologies and treatments for preventing oral disease and improving the oral health of seniors. Columbia is pursuing a number of ongoing geriatric dentistry research projects including the exploration of the relationship between systemic and oral health as they relate to diseases commonly suffered by seniors including diabetes, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases.

- **Oral Disease Prevention In Seniors: Community Approach.** Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Improving Oral Care Delivery for Homebound Elderly.** Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Oral Cancer Knowledge, Opinions and Behaviors of [Elderly] South Asian Adults in NY, NJ and CT.** Funded by the National Institutes of Health (National Cancer Institute)

The ElderSmile program will also promote the definition and development, and assist with the funding and monitoring, of new research projects related to geriatric oral health and dentistry.

Policy

America’s elderly population continues to grow yet its dental needs have received little attention and almost no public health or public policy interventions. That’s what makes the ElderSmile geriatric oral health policy initiative so important. The program’s goal is to bring together all stakeholders in order to integrate oral health into general health policies and programming so that seniors are provided with systems of comprehensive care. Through this initiative, ElderSmile aims to provide policy support for dental and medical organizations and communities that will directly impact the geriatric population’s current lack of access to dental care. To this end ElderSmile is pursuing several central strategies:

- **Provide support for the development of national, state and local geriatric programs and policies that advance the oral health of seniors**
- **Develop policies to improve the accessibility and availability of oral health services for vulnerable and at-risk geriatric populations**
- **Stimulate and support leadership development in oral health policy**
- **Raise public and professional awareness of the role of oral health in overall health**
The ElderSmile™ Dental Network

To meet the needs of the local community, a federally designated manpower shortage area, ElderSmile is developing an expanding network of treatment and prevention sites, and outreach programs. Because not all seniors can or will travel to receive outpatient care, a flexible approach to providing dental services is essential to making oral healthcare available to all seniors. In addition to our outpatient facilities within the Columbia University complex, the program also offers service at nursing homes and subsidized senior residences.

To improve coverage of Northern Manhattan and provide access to as many older patients as possible, future sites are under consideration and will be pursued as funding becomes available.

Statistics show there’s much more work to be done.

- In Northern Manhattan, 45% of seniors have no teeth, compared with 25% nationally; and only 23% of seniors visited the dentist yearly (the national estimate is 50%).
- Although Medicaid in New York DOES offer dental coverage: only 1/5 of enrolled adults access Medicaid’s dental services and only 10% of private dentists provide over $10,000 in Medicaid dental services.
- The Thelma C. Davidson Adair Medical/Dental Center located in a senior residence in Harlem places a special emphasis on meeting the healthcare needs of the elderly with a full range of medical and dental services at one site.
- The Columbia ElderSmile initiative has developed a partnership with the Isabella Geriatric Care Nursing Center in the Washington Heights/Inwood area, where residents of the center and the neighborhood receive dental services.
- The ElderSmile dental clinic within the geriatric facility at the Columbia University Medical Center practices an integrated approach to the overall health of adults over age 65.
- Residents and third and fourth year dental students supervised by Columbia faculty treat the most complicated geriatric cases at the school’s Vanderbilt dental clinic.
- A Mobile Dental Center van visits senior centers during the summer months and provides on-premises dental education and screening. This outreach program leverages the school’s DentCare resources by operating when the van is not needed for offering similar services to children in the HeadStart program.
Educating Tomorrow’s Dentists

With too few skilled dental professionals to treat the growing number of senior citizens requiring special attention and care, the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine has made it a high priority to educate future service providers. This multifaceted program integrates the biological, dental, psychological and social concerns and processes of aging. Every Columbia dental student takes courses and gains practical experience by working at ElderSmile sites and outreach programs. This experience is invaluable. The one-on-one interaction prepares students for the future challenges they will face in treating geriatric patients who may be physically fragile or have difficulty expressing themselves. In addition, the college plans to develop a two-year formal program in geriatric dentistry, which will include training in dentistry, medicine and public health.

Although they study in New York, the school’s graduating students will disperse to practice and teach throughout the country. In essence, Columbia is educating the future thought leaders and practitioners in geriatric dentistry.
ElderSmile has developed a strategy for improving access to and delivery of oral healthcare for seniors and will continue to work to eliminate practical, logistic and financial barriers to the delivery of care. We will share information about our network outreach model with other dental schools in New York and across the country. We will strive to increase awareness among healthcare professionals and patients as to the importance of oral health in overall health. We will continue to train students and other dental professionals to deliver geriatric dental services.

But we cannot do it alone.

We need your support.

Our goal is to open additional treatment sites and to add a much-needed transportation component. The program needs more staff to administer and champion our cause, and the college needs additional faculty to teach and mentor the next generation of dentists.

We trust you will agree that the elderly need and deserve full access to comprehensive dental care. We believe that, together, we can forever alter the landscape and transform the ElderSmile vision into a reality.

To show your support, or for more information, please contact:
University College of Dental Medicine, Development Office
630 West 168th Street, P&S 3-460, New York, NY 10032
212.342.5612

The following organizations have already joined with Columbia in support of the ElderSmile program through funding or active partnerships:
• The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation
• The Stella and Charles Guttmann Foundation
• Henry Schein, Inc.
• The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
• National Institutes of Health’s National Cancer Institute
• New York State Dental Foundation
• Consumers Union
• Washington Heights & Inwood Council on Aging, Inc.
• New York-Presbyterian Hospital
• Columbia Center for Active Life of Minority Elders
Community DentCare Network

ELDER SMILE PROGRAM WILL COME TO

SR. CENTER ADDRESS
COME AND RECEIVE A FREE!!!!!!!

WORKSHOP ON ORAL HEALTH, DIABETES & HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD SUGAR SCREENINGS, TREATMENT REFERRAL, and GOODIE BAG

WHEN:
TIME:

Participants must be enrolled at the senior center.
For more information about the ELDERSMILE PROGRAM please call 212-305-1045
ELDER SMILE PROGRAM
ESTARA EN
CENTRO DE >>>>>>

New York, NY
VENGA Y RECIBA GRATUITAMENTE!!!!!!!
Educación sobre la salud Bucal, Diabetis e Hipertensión (Presión Alta)

EXAM DENTAL, PRESION ARTERIAL Y AZUCAR
Referidos y Bolsas de regalos

CUANDO:
HORA:

Para participar tienen que ser parte del centro de personas mayores
Para obtener mas información sobre el Programa de ElderSmile,
favor de llamar al 212-305-1045.