

CompDent Texas Quality Improvement Program Project

Project Name: Health Promotion/Outreach 2004

Project Type: Quality of Care/Preventive Health

Project Sponsors: CompBenefits and Baylor College of Dentistry, Dallas

Background:

Baylor's College of Dentistry Outreach Division, in conjunction with Central Dallas Ministries, has designed its annual Community Health Outreach Project for Shared Housing Centers. Shared Housing Centers is a non-profit organization that provides assistance to families and individuals in their struggle to avoid homelessness.

As part of its 2004 Community Outreach Project, Baylor Dental School has targeted a sample of approximately 200 individuals as identified by Shared Housing Centers. Similar to the previous year, the 2004 sample will consist of 70% adults and 30% children. Over the course of a day, this group of 200 individuals will be provided an oral exam, basic prophylaxis/dental cleaning, and any minor dental work that may be required.

Baylor dental students will be performing the majority of required preventive and dental care services. CompBenefits' Texas Dental Director, along with Baylor Dental School Faculty, will oversee the project. In addition, CompBenefits will be providing to the participants a dental kit consisting of a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss and educational brochures. The 2004 project session will have as a major objective: oral health education. The overarching goal continues to be one of making this an annual event, with CompBenefits coordinating and sponsoring education of these individuals throughout the scheduled project day.

Objectives:

- Patient education regarding the prevention of oral disease and oral hygiene methods to participants
- Provision of basic preventive and restorative dental care to target population

Methods/Materials:

- Free samples of the following will be distributed to all participants:
 - Preventive Health Education Brochures/handouts
 - Dental Kit {soft-bristled toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss}
 - Oral exam
 - Basic preventive care/prophylaxis
 - Basic restorative care

Outcome/
Gains Achieved:

The Health Promotion/Outreach project was successful in educating the participants on the prevention of oral disease and proper oral hygiene techniques. The number of participants was greater than expected, with over 50% of the participants being children. Oral hygiene literature was provided in both English and Spanish. The 2004 project included additional oral hygiene services for children such as fluoride treatments, and motivational brochures with interactive exercises for children to assist them in the process of caring for their teeth.