

**CompBenefits Texas  
Quality/Preventive Health Study Final Report  
Periodontal Screening and Recording, 2000-2002**

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**Project Goal:**

To increase the number of CompDent participating general dentists performing periodontal screening and recording on adult CompDent members as part of a routine oral examination. To analyze the impact of provider and member education regarding routine periodontal screening and recording.

**Baseline Data:**

Out of the 36 (10% of participating general dentist network) offices surveyed and 180 (36 x 5 records each = 180) patient records reviewed during the 1st quarter of 2000, which included appropriate patient age parameters, 10 (28% of sample) providers were found to be documenting Periodontal Screening and Recording during routine oral examinations on adult CompDent members, while 2 (5% of the 36 in the sample population) were not. The 24 remaining site/record reviews indicated a response of "N/A" for the Periodontal Screening and Recording documentation question for any of the five (5) patient records found to meet appropriate age parameters.

From the above results, the QI staff found that they were unable to verify whether the "N/A" reflected that the patient had only been seen on an emergency basis, that the patient no longer had his/her natural teeth, or that the patient was only seen for a problem focused evaluation. In summary, the QI staff determined the reviewer guidelines would require some revisions and clarification in order to increase both internal and external validity of the data collection instrument and by extension the data itself.

The aim of the initiative is to increase the number of CompDent general dentists who document Periodontal Screening and Recording (PSR) scores during routine oral examinations, on adult CompDent members. The QI staff will implement an improvement intervention to increase the rate of providers documenting PSR on their adult patients.

**Performance Goal:**

To increase the frequency of dentists performing periodontal screening and recording during routine oral examinations, as an aid in the early detection of periodontal disease.

**Improvement Intervention:**

Participating network general dentists' offices were supplied with the *Periodontal Screening & Recording (PSR): An Early Detection System™* produced by the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Periodontology to provide a simple, uniform method of recording PSR scores on adult CompDent members.

### **Project Outcome:**

Post improvement intervention data acquired via dental office assessment reports reveals that the number of practitioners documenting PSR scores increased significantly. Out of the 41 (10% of participating general dentist network) offices surveyed, and 205 (41 x 5 records each = 205) patient records reviewed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2002, **27 (66% of sample)** providers were found to be documenting Periodontal Screening and Recording during routine oral examinations on adult CompDent members **14 (34%)** of the 41 in the sample population were not. This represents a **38%** increase in the number of practitioners now documenting PSR scores on adult members.

Therefore, based on the post intervention outcome, it can be concluded that the intervention achieved its intended goal of increasing the number of participating general dentists documenting PSR on adult patients during routine oral examinations.

### **Conclusion/Recommendation:**

Inherent limitations of the study include confounding variables, such as post intervention data collection. It is recommended that future efforts in this area include an alternate means of data collection.