**Quality Improvement Study**

**Measuring Dental Learning Outcomes**

**January 2012**

1. **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to demonstrate that our patients have gained knowledge during their appointment time or are already knowledgeable in content specific to care of the teeth, mouth and gums.

An assessment tool (pre-test) which was pre-approved by the QMI Committee, will be distributed and completed by 50 patients on the Boca campus with appointments to see the dentist or hygienist, followed by an opportunity for education and discussion with one of these healthcare providers. An identical assessment tool (post-test) will then be distributed and completed following the appointment. (See Dental Assessment Tool on next page.)

1. **Performance Goal**

Greater than or equal to 75% of participants will receive a score of 75% or above on the post-test Dental Assessment Tool.

1. **Data to be Collected**

Answers to the 5 questions on the pre- and post-tests of the Dental Assessment Tool.

**Dental Assessment Tool**

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1. During a dental check-up, the dentist can assess:
   1. Oral cancer
   2. Cavities
   3. Gum disease
   4. All of the above
2. How often do you need to have a dental checkup?
   1. At least once a year
   2. Every time your teeth hurt
   3. When your gums bleed
3. When do you need to have your dental cavities treated?
   1. When it hurts
   2. When it’s visible
   3. As soon as it is detected
4. How often do you need a professional dental cleaning?
   1. Never
   2. Once a year
   3. As often as recommended by your dentist
5. Professional teeth whitening products destroy your dental enamel.
   1. True
   2. False

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1. **Evidence of Data Collection**
2. Although 50 pre-and post-tests were distributed, only 49 tests were completed of each.
3. 49 out of 49 participants received a score of 75% or above on the post-test.
4. **Analysis**

100% of the participants received a score of 75% or above on the post-test Dental Assessment Tool.

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1. **Comparison of Current Performance vs. Goal**

Greater than 75% of participants received a score of 75% or above on the post-test Dental Assessment Tool.

1. **Corrective Actions**

None indicated

1. **Re-Measurement**

None indicated

1. **Recommendations**

Raise performance goal(s) on future studies.

1. **Reporting and Education**

Results will be forwarded to the Executive Committee, the QMI Committee, the Provider Committee, SHAC and appropriate SHS staff.

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