Improving Oral Health Services for Independent/Assisted Living Residents

A growing population of 700,000 Americans live in Independent Living/Assisted Living residential communities. Many of these residents have difficulty obtaining regular, effective dental screenings and treatment. The significant consequences of poor oral and dental health among the elderly can include chewing and swallowing difficulties, mouth soreness, offensive breath, and increased risk of systemic diseases such as aspiration pneumonia, heart disease and diabetes.

“With the majority of older Americans having at least one chronic disease and the scientific evidence demonstrating a relationship between chronic disease and oral health status, resources need to be readily available to assist seniors, family members and professionals who are unsure about the oral care for this growing group of people.”

- Massachusetts Dept. of Health and Human Services

Getting to see the dentist should be easier

Visiting the dentist can be challenging for anyone but for this population, a trip to the dentist for even a basic examination requires expensive, time-consuming and administratively difficult transportation arrangements, and may cause necessary anxiety.

Other obstacles can be real or perceived...

▶ Unwillingness of the majority of dentists to travel to and perform services in an IL/AL environment where equipment, assistance and accommodations may not be available

▶ Facility staff may not have sufficient time to conduct oral/dental hygiene and care as often as needed

▶ Many public health insurance programs provide limited or no reimbursement for dental care

Remote Visual Consultations

For any patient, the first step in oral care is a visual observation of the mouth and oral cavity. More than 75% of oral/dental healthcare issues are indicated visually and do not require more invasive techniques such as x-rays or physical examination.

A profitable and effective solution is finally here. Turn the page...

www.mymouthwatch.com | 877.544.4342
MouthWatch Interactive®

MouthWatch Interactive is a solution that helps your residents better understand and manage their oral health conditions, while providing a means of interactively sharing images and video with an off-site dentist.

In just a few minutes, staff members or visiting dental health providers can assist residents in conducting a painless examination of their mouth in the comfort of their own room. A live-video consultation can also take place, helping the patient meet with the dentist - who can educate, diagnose and even schedule an appointment - at a time that’s convenient to everyone, perhaps even other residents who need a dental appointment.

Oral Health Is A Competitive Advantage

Assisted and independent living communities can benefit from offering oral telehealth exams and consultations in several ways:

▶ The service can be provided for an additional fee to residents - a new source of revenue
▶ The quality of total health services provided to residents can be improved - enhancing marketing
▶ Visits to dentists can be arranged knowing in advance what needs to be done, how much it will cost and how long it will take, relieving residents’ anxiety and streamlining transportation

Oral telehealth with MouthWatch Interactive provides the best way for assisted or independent living communities to offer regular dental checkups, without the inconvenience of getting to the dentist.

Learn More...

Call us at 877.544.4362 or visit our website at: www.mymouthwatch.com/ltc to schedule a demo of how MouthWatch can help your business and residents.