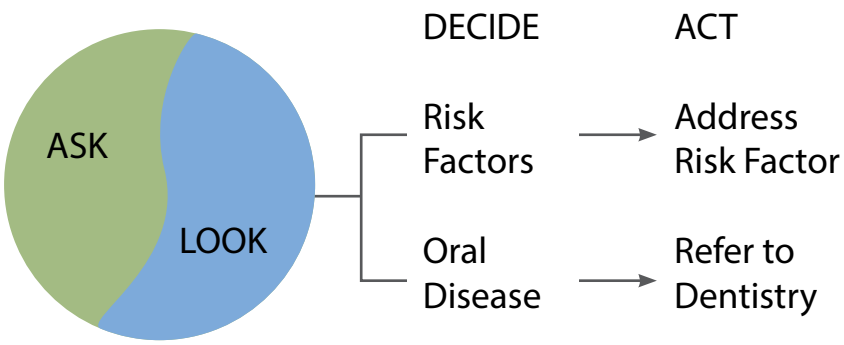
Recommended Oral Health Screening Questions

Adult and Pediatric

A primary care team gathers information by asking the patient questions and looking in the patient's mouth. This information allows the care team to decide if there are modifiable risk factors or signs of active disease, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. High-level schematic of the Oral Health Delivery Framework



Each question is designed to reveal a modifiable risk factor or alert the questioner to the likelihood of active disease. A look in the mouth allows the clinician to determine whether there are signs of oral dryness, dental decay, or gum inflammation. Each finding is linked to a corresponding combination of four different possible actions to be taken in primary care, as shown in Figure 2.

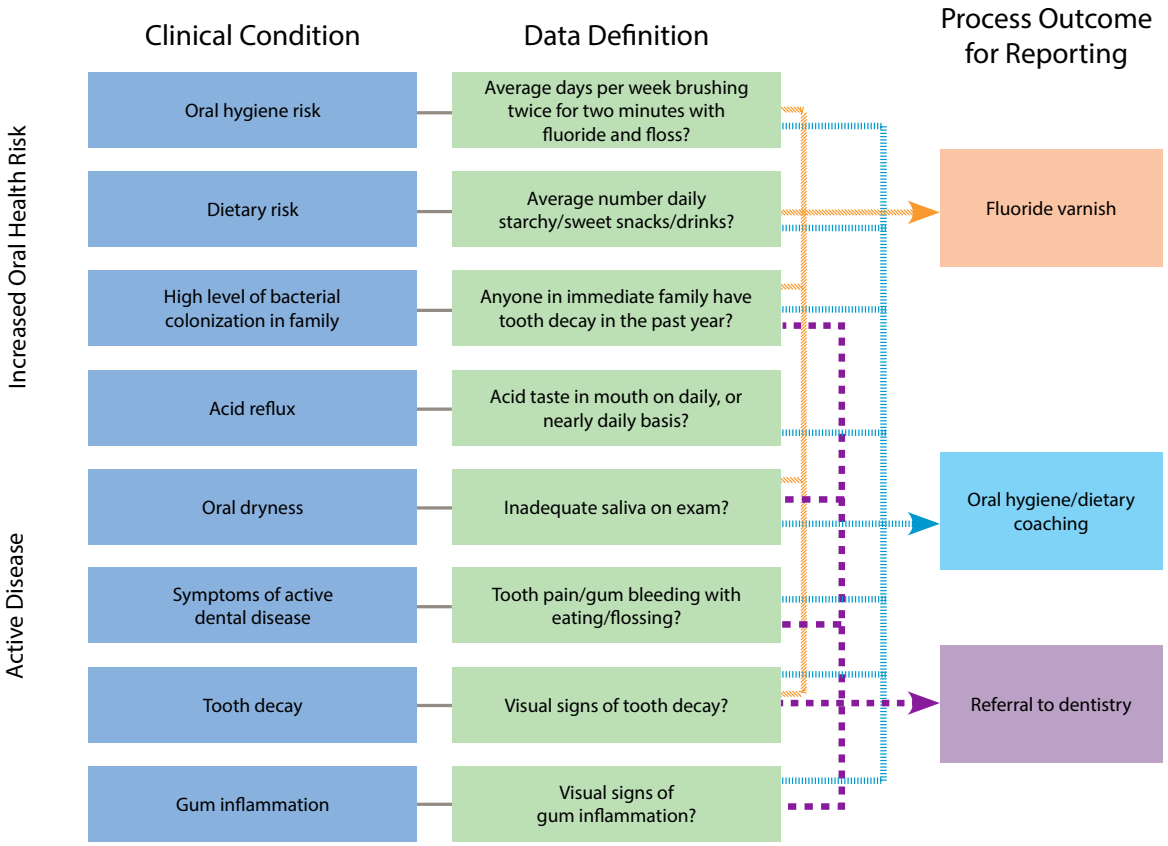
Recommended adult and adolescent oral health screening questions

1. Oral hygiene question: On average, how many days per week do you brush your teeth for at least two minutes, twice daily, using fluoride toothpaste and floss at least once daily? [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]
2. Diet question: On average, how many times daily do you consume starch or sugar (sugary snacks or sugary drinks) between meals? [< 1, 2–3, 4-5, > 6]
3. Bacterial exposure question: Has anyone in the imediate family (including a caregiver) had tooth decay or lost a tooth from tooth decay in the past year? [Y/N]
4. Acid reflux question: Do you experience stomach acid in your mouth or throat after eating or when lying down on a daily or almost daily basis? [Y/N]
5. Dry mouth question: Do you commonly experience dry mouth (i.e., requiring swallowing water to eat crackers)? [Y/N]
6. Oral symptom question: Do you experience tooth pain or bleeding gums when you eat or brush your teeth? [Y/N]

Recommended pediatric oral health screening questions

1. Oral hygiene question: How many days per week do you clean/brush your child's teeth, or supervise/monitor your child in brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice daily? [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]
2. Diet question: On average, how many times daily does your child consume starch or sugar (sugary snacks or sugary drinks) between meals? [< 1, 2–3, 4–5, > 6]
3. Bacterial exposure question: Has anyone in the immediate family (including a caregiver) had tooth decay or lost a tooth from tooth decay in the past year? [Y/N]
4. Oral symptoms question: Does your child complain of tooth pain or have signs of bleeding gums when they eat or brush their teeth? [Y/N]

Figure 2. Detailed algorithm linking information with the associated finding and corresponding treatment combination



Positive answers to yes/no questions and positive findings on exam should result in the corresponding action. A practice will need to decide the threshold for intervention for the questions with numeric scale answers. Patients with active disease should be referred to a dentist unless they are noted as being already under active treatment for the finding.

Tool Link: See the Oral Health Data Reporting Template and Run Chart tool for a concise method to collect data on these screening questions and monitor your population management of oral health.

About the Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project

Organized, Evidence-Based Care Supplement: Oral Health Integration joins the Safety Net Medical Home Initiative Implementation Guide Series.

The goal of the Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project was to prepare primary care teams to address oral health and to improve referrals to dentistry through the development and testing of a framework and toolset. The project was administered by Qualis Health and built upon the learnings from 19 field-testing sites in Washington, Oregon, Kansas, Missouri, and Massachusetts, who received implementation support from their primary care association. Organized, Evidence-Based Care Supplement: Oral Health Integration built upon the Oral Health Delivery Framework published in Oral Health: An Essential Component of Primary Care, and was informed by the field-testing sites' work, experiences, and feedback. Field-testing sites in Kansas, Massachusetts, and Oregon also received technical assistance from their state's primary care association.

The Oral Health Integration in Primary Care Project was sponsored by the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, a consortium of funders and health professionals who share a vision that dental disease can be eradicated, and funded by the DentaQuest Foundation, the REACH Healthcare Foundation, and the Washington Dental Service Foundation.

For more information about the project sponsors and funders, refer to:

- National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health: niioh.org.
- DentaQuest Foundation ((now CareQuest Institute for Oral Health): carequest.org.
- REACH Healthcare Foundation: reachhealth.org.
- Washington Dental Service Foundation (now Arcora Foundation): arcorafoundation.org.

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