THE TOP 10 PRIORITIES FOR ORAL AND DENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

In 2017 a ground-breaking partnership between the NIHR Clinical Research Network Oral and Dental Health Specialty Group in collaboration with Dental Schools Council and Public Health England was launched to identify unanswered questions relating to oral and dental health research from a patient, public and clinical perspective. Contributions were invited from everyone - members of the public, patients, carers and dental health professionals.

ASK

Our UK-wide survey of members of the public, patients, carers and dental health professionals asked:

"What questions would you like research to answer on oral and dental health, to keep mouths, teeth and gums healthy?"

ANALYSE

We analysed 1,100 questions submitted and sorted them into 38 similarly themed questions.

PRIORITISE

From those, we asked members of the public, patients, carers and dental health professionals:

"What are your ten most important questions?"

This created a shortlist of 25 which were ranked at our final workshop.

Here are the final Top 10 priorities identified:

1 — What is the best way to prevent tooth decay, and reduce oral health inequalities at a community or population level?

2 — How can access to dental services be improved for the general public?

3 — What are the most effective ways of increasing early detection/diagnosis of oral cancer?

4 — How can access to dental services be improved for people with additional needs?

5 — How can dental health professionals work with other health professionals to help improve oral health?

6 — How can basic oral hygiene be achieved for people with additional care needs?

7 — How to improve communication between dental teams and patients/carers?

8 — Is there a role for dental health professionals in treating oral health problems to improve general health?

9 — What is the best way to prevent gum disease, and reduce oral health inequalities at a community or population level?

10 — What role do digital technologies play in the provision of dental care?

DSC Dental Schools Council

James Lind Alliance — Priority Setting Partnerships

Public Health England

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