

Oral Rights and Responsibilities Navigating the Constitution of Dental Care

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Abstract

Dental care is an integral aspect of healthcare, playing a crucial role in maintaining overall well-being. In the realm of oral health, individuals possess certain rights and responsibilities that are often overlooked. This article delves into the oral constitution of dental care, exploring the rights patients have, as well as the responsibilities they must uphold in order to ensure optimal oral health. The landscape of healthcare, dental care is a fundamental aspect often overshadowed by broader health concerns. Navigating the Constitution of Dental Care involves understanding the rights individuals have in accessing dental services, the responsibilities both patients and dental care providers must uphold, and the collective journey toward achieving oral health equity. This article explores the multifaceted nature of the oral constitution, emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive framework that encompasses the rights and responsibilities inherent in dental care.

Keywords: Oral rights and responsibilities • Dental care • Oral health

Introduction

The right to access dental care

Access to dental care enables individuals to receive preventive services, such as regular check-ups, cleanings, and fluoride treatments, which are essential for maintaining optimal oral health. Early detection and treatment of dental issues through routine dental care can prevent the progression of oral diseases, reduce the need for more invasive treatments, and ultimately promote better oral health outcomes. Dental care facilitates access to preventive measures such as dental sealants, fluoride applications, and oral health education, which are effective in preventing dental problems such as cavities, gum disease, and oral infections. By addressing risk factors and promoting healthy behaviors, dental care plays a crucial role in preventing the onset of dental disease and reducing the burden of oral health conditions on individuals and communities.

Ensuring the right to access dental care requires a multifaceted approach that addresses barriers such as affordability, geographic location, provider shortages, and sociocultural factors. Policymakers, healthcare providers, community organizations, and other stakeholders must collaborate to implement strategies that expand access to dental services, promote oral health equity, and prioritize the oral health needs of underserved populations. By recognizing dental care as a fundamental right and advocating for policies and initiatives that support equitable access to dental services, we can work toward achieving better oral health outcomes for all individuals.

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Received: 03 January, 2024, Manuscript No. OHCR-24-127159; **Editor Assigned:** 05 January, 2024, PreQC No. P-127159; **Reviewed:** 17 January, 2024, QC No. Q-127159; **Revised:** 24 January, 2024, Manuscript No. R-127159; **Published:** 31 January, 2024, DOI: 10.37421/2471-8726.2024.10.126

Literature Review

Affordable dental care

Financial constraints should not be a barrier to oral health. The Constitution of Dental Care should advocate for affordable dental services, encouraging the implementation of policies that make preventive and corrective treatments accessible to all socio-economic groups. Initiatives such as community dental clinics, insurance programs, and government subsidies can contribute to making dental care affordable and within reach for everyone [1].

Education on oral health

Education on oral health is essential for promoting preventive behaviors, empowering individuals to take control of their oral health, and reducing the burden of dental disease. Effective education initiatives aim to provide individuals with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to maintain optimal oral hygiene practices, make informed decisions about their oral health care, and adopt healthy behaviors that support overall well-being. By educating individuals about the importance of regular brushing and flossing, proper nutrition, the dangers of tobacco use, and the benefits of regular dental check-ups, education on oral health helps to prevent dental problems such as cavities, gum disease, and oral infections. Moreover, oral health education extends beyond individuals to include families, communities, and schools, fostering a culture of oral health literacy and awareness that promotes healthy habits and reduces oral health disparities [2].

Furthermore, education on oral health plays a crucial role in addressing systemic health disparities and promoting health equity. By targeting underserved populations, including low-income individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, and rural communities, education initiatives can help bridge gaps in access to dental care and reduce disparities in oral health outcomes. Culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate education materials and outreach programs can empower marginalized communities to overcome barriers to oral health care and advocate for their oral health needs. Additionally, education on oral health can serve as a platform for promoting social justice, advocating for policies that support equitable access to dental services, and addressing the underlying determinants of oral health disparities, such as poverty, lack of insurance coverage, and limited access to preventive services. Through comprehensive and inclusive education efforts, we can empower individuals and communities to achieve better oral health outcomes and improve overall quality of life for all [3].

The right to informed consent

Informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical medical practices, and dentistry is no exception. Patients have the right to be informed about the nature of their dental treatments, potential risks, alternative options, and expected outcomes. The Constitution of Dental Care should emphasize the importance of obtaining valid informed consent before any dental procedure, ensuring transparency and respect for patient autonomy [4].

Discussion

Shared decision-making

Shared decision-making is a collaborative approach between healthcare providers and patients, where both parties work together to make informed healthcare decisions that align with the patient's preferences, values, and goals. This process recognizes the expertise and knowledge of both the healthcare provider and the patient, emphasizing the importance of open communication, mutual respect, and active participation in decision-making. In shared decision-making, healthcare providers present relevant information about the patient's condition, treatment options, potential risks and benefits, and available alternatives. Patients are encouraged to ask questions, express their concerns, and share their preferences, priorities, and values related to their healthcare decisions. Together, the healthcare provider and the patient explore different options, consider the potential outcomes, and collaborate to reach a decision that is tailored to the patient's individual needs and circumstances [5].

Responsibilities of dental care providers

While patients have rights, they also bear certain responsibilities in maintaining their oral health. Dental care providers, on the other hand, have a set of responsibilities that are crucial for delivering quality care. Dental professionals must adhere to the highest ethical standards. The Constitution of Dental Care should outline the importance of ethical practices, emphasizing honesty, integrity, and the prioritization of the patient's well-being over financial considerations. The field of dentistry is dynamic, with constant advancements in technology and techniques. Dental care providers have a responsibility to engage in continuous professional development to stay abreast of the latest developments. The Constitution of Dental Care should encourage ongoing education and training for dental professionals, ensuring the delivery of state-of-the-art dental services [6].

Cultural competence

Diverse populations seek dental care, each with unique cultural backgrounds and beliefs. The Constitution of Dental Care should underscore the importance of cultural competence among dental professionals. Being culturally sensitive ensures that patients receive care that respects their values and meets their specific needs. While patients have rights, they also bear responsibilities in maintaining their oral health. The Constitution of Dental Care should elucidate these responsibilities to promote a collaborative approach to oral health. Patients have a responsibility to maintain good oral hygiene practices, including regular brushing, flossing, and the use of mouthwash. The Constitution of Dental Care should stress the role of preventive care in minimizing the need for more invasive and costly dental procedures. Upon receiving a treatment plan, patients are responsible for adhering to the prescribed regimen. Whether it involves medications, follow-up appointments,

or lifestyle modifications, compliance is crucial for the success of the treatment. The Constitution of Dental Care should emphasize the partnership between the patient and the dental care provider in achieving optimal oral health outcomes.

Conclusion

The Constitution of Dental Care serves as a framework for the rights and responsibilities inherent in oral health. By emphasizing the right to access affordable dental care, promoting informed consent, and outlining the responsibilities of both dental care providers and patients, we can create a comprehensive approach to oral health that benefits individuals and communities alike. Implementing and upholding such a constitution ensures that oral health is not just a privilege for a select few but a right for everyone to enjoy.

Acknowledgement

None.

Conflict of Interest

None.

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How to cite this article: Norrie, Tiffany Patterson. "Oral Rights and Responsibilities Navigating the Constitution of Dental Care." *Oral Health Case Rep* 10 (2024): 126.