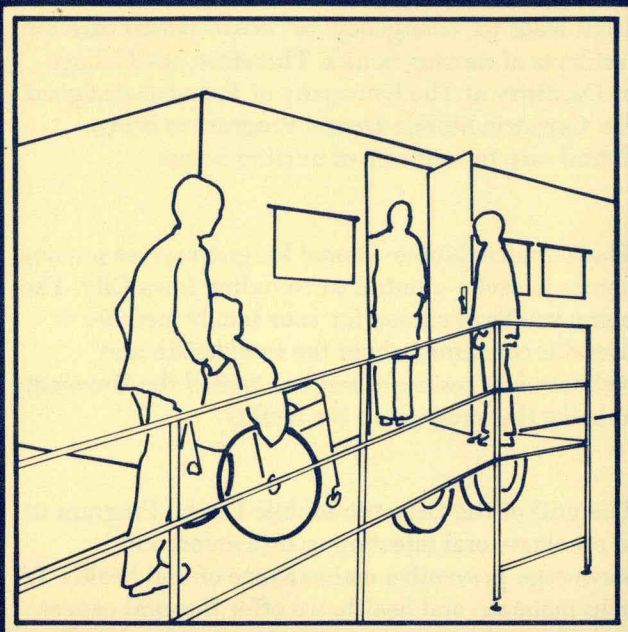


7
U582CD
7:G369
1985

AUG 5 1985

The University of Iowa

Geriatric Mobile Dental Unit



When visiting your family member or friend in the nursing home, have you noticed that . . .

- . . . he/she is not wearing his/her dentures during the day?
- . . . he/she is requesting softer foods to eat?
- . . . his/her dentures "click" when talking?
- . . . his/her breath is bad?

STATE LIBR
Historic
DES MOINES

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
17 U582CD 7:G369 1985 sdoc
University of Iowa./Geriatric mobile den



Geriatric Mobile Denta

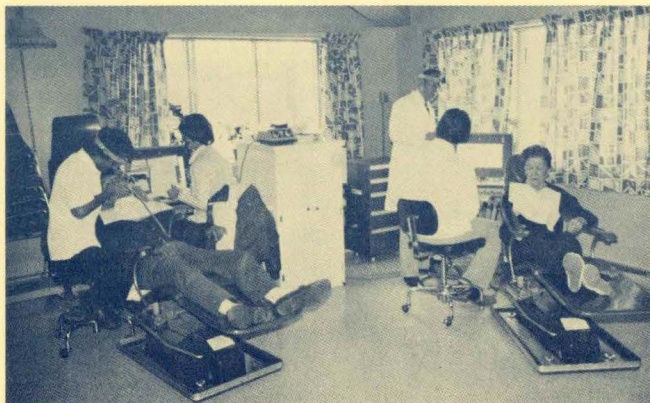
These types of oral health problems are common in nursing home residents, mainly because *routine* dental care is not available in nursing facilities. This often leads to "emergency" or "crisis" dental care for residents of nursing homes. Therefore, the College of Dentistry at The University of Iowa has designed the **Geriatric Mobile Dental Program** to bring dental care to residents of nursing homes.

The Geriatric Mobile Dental Program serves nursing homes in seven counties surrounding Iowa City. The home you have chosen for your family member or friend is concerned about the *total* health and welfare of its residents and has invited the University to bring this program to the facility.

The goal of the Geriatric Mobile Dental Program is to eliminate oral infection or discomfort and encourage preventive maintenance of oral health. To help maintain oral health, we offer free oral cancer screenings, denture cleaning, identification labeling of dentures, and group education in oral health for all nursing home residents.

Our program includes a trailer with a wheelchair ramp, which is illustrated on the front of the brochure. Inside the trailer is a small dental office and dental laboratory. Inside each facility, two dental "offices" with portable dental equipment are set up in a vacant area. In addition, "modified" dental equipment has been designed to provide needed dental treatment at bedside when necessary.

Unit



Portable dental equipment set up inside a nursing home.

The Geriatric Mobile Dental Program will remain at the home until all requested dental care is completed. The dental staff members will return to follow through on any dental problems that may arise after the completion of the program. In order to establish an effective preventive maintenance program, the Geriatric Mobile Dental Program will be scheduled to return to the home within 12-18 months.

One obvious advantage of this mobile dental program is that residents are able to receive needed dental care in the comfort of familiar surroundings. In many cases, an individual's overall health is improved by cleaning his or her teeth, eliminating an infection, or fixing a denture so that the person may chew adequately. It is healthier and easier to maintain a level of oral health rather than relying on "crisis" or "emergency" care.

Although we are able to provide a wide range of dental services, the total person is taken into account before determining what type of dental treatment to recommend. For instance, what is appropriate dental care for a 45-year-old person may not necessarily be appropriate dental care for an 85-year-old person with the same dental problem. There are many factors that are important when working with an older, medically complex person. Sometimes, the *best* treatment for an individual may mean no treatment at all or very minor treatment.

Permission for the recommended treatment is obtained from the party responsible for the legal and/or financial affairs of the resident before any treatment is started. Only that treatment for which permission has been granted is performed. Because of the educational nature of the College of Dentistry, dental fees charged on the program are adjusted downward from the actual service value.

We sincerely hope that you will elect to take advantage of this much needed service. If you have any questions or concerns about the Geriatric Mobile Dental Program please contact:

Clinic Coordinator
Preventive and Community Dentistry
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
(319) 353-8771

