

**College of Micronesia-FSM**

**Course Outline**

**Course Title:** Dental Health

**Department and No:** CHS 235a

**Course Description:** Dental diseases are very common in Micronesia, causing a great deal of suffering and disability. This course develops an understanding of dental disease and the simple measures that can be implemented by health workers to prevent most of it.

This course is designed both for community health workers (CHWs) who will be working within the villages of the district centers, as well as for health assistants (HAs) who are based in dispensaries in areas where there is no doctor.

**Course Prepared By:** Dr Mark Durand and Dr Cindy Lefagopal      **Campus:** Yap

Hours Per Week	No. of Week	Total Hours	Semester Credits
Lecture <u>16</u>	x <u>2</u>	= <u>32</u>	= <u>2</u>
Laboratory _____	x _____	= _____	= _____
Workshop _____	x _____	= _____	= _____

**Total Semester Credits =** 2

**Purpose of Course:** Degree Requirement \_\_\_\_\_  
Degree Elective \_\_\_\_\_  
Certificate X \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Prerequisite:** NA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Chairperson, Curriculum Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, President, COM-FSM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **General Course Objectives:**

To prepare students to provide advice to people about dental disorders and to deliver preventive dental care services, especially to children.

## **Specific Learning Objectives:**

- Record findings of a dental exam on a standard mouth diagram.
- Name specific teeth by letter and number so that student can report problems in specific teeth to dentist.
- Recognize retained deciduous teeth; explain when retained deciduous teeth should be reported to a dentist.
- Recognize plaque.
- Recognize caries.
- Recognize dental abscess.
- Recognize periodontal disease.
- Explain how caries cause toothache.
- Identify which conditions require referral.
- Refer patients to the next appropriate level of care, using appropriate records and procedures.
- Explain how teeth can be protected from injury during sports and play.
- Explain proper management of an avulsed tooth.
- Explain to lay people how caries and periodontal disease affect health.
- Explain to lay people what is Plaque, how it occurs, how it causes dental caries and periodontal disease.
- Explain to lay people how plaque can be removed.
- Explain to lay people what foods protect teeth and which foods harm teeth by causing decay.
- Persuade parents and children to correctly use fluoride applications and tooth brushing for the prevention of dental disease.
- Explain to lay people the effects of tobacco on the mouth.
- Explain how alcohol affects the mouth.
- Explain to lay people the effects of betel nut on the mouth.
- Counsel adolescents and adults about effective measures for prevention of mouth and neck cancers.
- Recognize teeth that are affected by fluorosis vs. dental caries.
- Explain what should be done (and not done) to teeth affected by fluorosis.
- Explain why tetracycline and doxycycline should not be used in pregnancy and children under 8 years.
- Explain to pregnant women how a clean mouth and teeth protects the pregnancy and newborn child.
- Explain to pregnant women what they must do to assure a clean mouth.
- Counsel parents of special needs children on oral health including: how to clean teeth, how often to clean teeth of children who cannot use a brush, what diet advice to give to children who are on a soft diet, and what to advise about use of bottles and breast feeding for these children.
- Explain to parents and children how fissure sealants protect teeth and what age children should be treated with sealants.

- Determine whether a child is eligible for fissure sealant placement based on age and dentition.
- Properly apply fluoride varnish to teeth of children between 6 months and 6 years.
- Demonstrate the methods in managing a child- patient (to cooperate with work in the mouth).
- Create a registry of children eligible for fluoride varnish in the island/catchment area of student's dispensary.
- Create a registry of children eligible for fissure sealants in the island/catchment area of student's dispensary.
- Describe when children should be placed on each registry or removed from the registry based on age.
- Identify which children on the fluoride varnish registry are due for fluoride application.
- Identify which children on the fissure sealant registry are due for fissure sealant.
- Use the registries to correctly record services given to children.

**Course Contents:**

- The mouth and the pathogenesis of common dental diseases.
- Nutrition and dental disease.
- The use of counseling and application of fluoride and fissure sealants for prevention and limitation of disability from dental disease.
- The use of registries to assure delivery of basic services to a target group.

**Textbooks:**

Where There is No Dentist, (selected chapters). Dickson, M. Hesperian Foundation, Palo Alto, California. 1983. [ISBN 0-942364-05-08]

**Required Course Materials:**

Chalk boards, computer with LED projector, fluoride varnish and applicators, health education materials designed for children and parents, tooth brushes and fluoride toothpaste, latex gloves.

**Methods of Instruction:** Lecture, group discussion, presentations by Dental health staff, role play, supervised practice of skills with patients

**Evaluation:** Examinations.

Successful performance of skills components based on skills checklists. (see attached)

Graded demonstrations by students of development of patient registries. Assessment of student counseling skills by testing comprehension of lay people who have been counseled about a topic by student.

**Attendance Policy:** Per standard COM-FSM policy. Students will be advised of this on the first day of class.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Per standard COM-FSM policy as stated in the current catalog.

