

IHCRC staff members enjoy making improvements in the way we provide care for our patients. Here's some of our recent improvement projects:

Improving Screening and Documentation for Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) in Diabetes Patients: Our 2020 diabetes audit showed that only 59% of patients were screened for using electronic cigarettes (vaping). Vaping is a health serious health hazard, and we need to screen all patients with diabetes. We set a goal of at least 90% of patients receiving screening. Our Nursing Supervisor trained the nursing staff about proper screening and documentation. The 2021 diabetes audit showed that 100% of patients were screened for ENDS use. The changes that were implemented will be permanent, so we can maintain the success in this project.

Comprehensive Periodontal Evaluations in the Dental Department: The purpose of this study was to examine the percentage of adult patients within the dental department who were receiving comprehensive periodontal evaluations. Analysis of a chart audit found that 72% of adult patients had a comprehensive exam in the past year. Our dental staff set a goal of having 90% of our patients with a comprehensive exam in the past year. To accomplish this, our dentists evaluated the best practices, and determined that 12 months was the recommended interval, as opposed to up to 18 months. A recent chart review showed that 97% of patients had a comprehensive exam within the past year. This exceeded their goal of 90%.

Instruction on Dental Disease Prevention: The purpose of his study was to determine the rate at which patients were receiving preventive oral hygiene instruction (OHI) or nutritional counseling for control of dental disease (diet mod) at their exam appointments. For many Native American communities, childhood cavities are often three times higher than the overall U.S. population. The dental department felt that at least 90% of patients should receive dental disease prevention education, but a chart audit showed that only 77% of patients received this education at the time of their exam in September 2021. The dental staff determined that to reduce confusion about who would provide this education, the staff member who provide the dental prophylaxis at the time of their exam would provide the education. This action was implemented and their performance was re-measured in November 2021. At that time, 90% of the patient did have the oral health instruction at the time of the exam.