

Delivery of alcohol advice to dental patients

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Publication date:
2023

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication in ResearchOnline](#)

Citation for published version (Harvard):

Mohan, A, Shepherd, S, Marryat, L, Whiteley, D, Whittaker, A & Shinwell, S 2023, 'Delivery of alcohol advice to dental patients', UK Prevention Research Partnership Annual Conference, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 14/11/23 - 15/11/23.

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DeAP – Delivery of Alcohol advice to dental Patients

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What we know:

- Alcohol harms have significant health, social and economic costs in Scotland
- Alcohol is a major risk factor for oral and throat cancers
- Dental Professionals (DPs) are ideally placed to screen their patients' alcohol consumption and provide brief advice to those who may have an increased risk of cancer
- Many DPs in the UK are reluctant to deliver alcohol advice to patients

Aim of scoping review:

- to explore the barriers and facilitators related to the delivery of alcohol-related health advice by DPs
- This poster presents preliminary findings of the review.

Methods: The databases MEDLINE, CINAHL, the Cochrane Library, Scopus, Web of Sciences & Knowledge Network were searched to identify peer-reviewed articles that focused on barriers and facilitators to the delivery of alcohol-related health advice by dental professionals including dentists and dental hygienists. The scoping review methodology was used to explore and synthesis evidence.

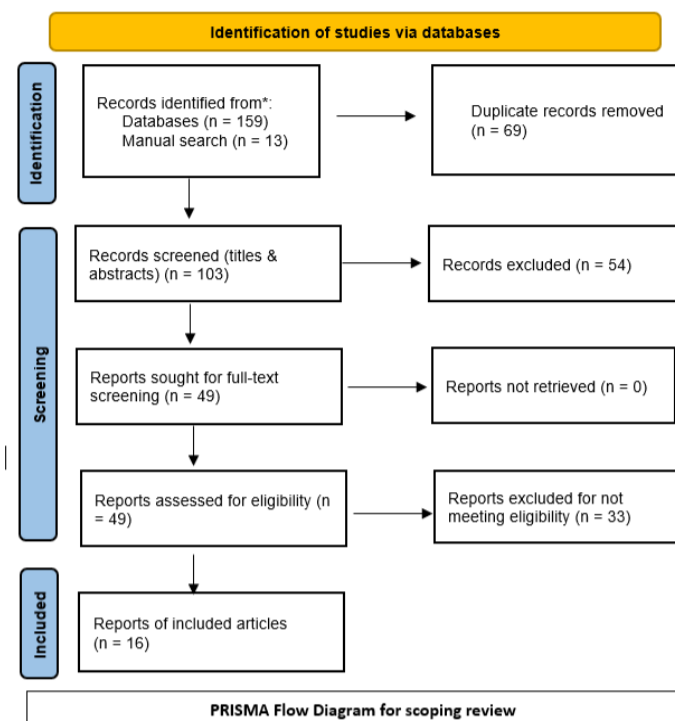


Table 1: Articles identifies from database searches

Main focus of paper	Article details	Country & Setting	Design & Methods
Intervention development/ implementation/ feasibility testing/ evaluation for ABIs	Dermont et al. 2020 ¹	UK; Armed Forces Primary healthcare dental clinics	Not described
	Neff et al. (2013 ² & 2015 ³)	USA; urban community dental clinics	Cluster RCT
	Ntouva et al. (2015 ⁴ , 2018 ⁵ & 2019 ⁶)	UK, NHS dental clinics	2-arm cluster RCT
DP perspectives on barriers to delivering alcohol advice	Dyer & Robinson 2006 ⁷	UK (England), dental clinics	Mixed methods; semi-structured interviews & postal questionnaire
	Macpherson et al. 2003 ⁸	UK (Scotland)	Mixed methods; semi-structured interviews & postal questionnaire
	McCann et al. 2000 ⁹	UK (Scotland)	Mixed methods; semi-structured interviews & postal questionnaire
	McNeely et al. 2013 ¹⁰	USA; private & public dental clinics	Quantitative; cross-sectional survey
	Shepherd et al. 2011 ¹¹	UK (Scotland)	Quantitative; cross-sectional survey
	Shepherd et al. 2010 ¹²	UK (Scotland)	Qualitative; semi-structured interviews
	Staras et al. 2021 ¹³	USA	Quantitative; cross-sectional survey
	Yusuf et al. 2015 ¹⁴	UK	Quantitative; cross-sectional survey
Dental patient perspectives on receiving alcohol advice	Guo et al. 2022 ¹⁵	USA	Quantitative; cross-sectional survey
	Miller et al. 2006 ¹⁶	USA; urban emergency dental clinics	Quantitative; cross-sectional survey

Results: We identified 16 articles (Table 1): 6¹⁻⁶ focused on the development, implementation or feasibility testing of forms of Alcohol Brief Interventions, 8⁷⁻¹⁴ focused on DPs' perspectives of barriers to delivering alcohol-related health advice, and 2^{15,16} focused on dental patients' perspectives of receiving alcohol advice.

6 main barriers and 4 main facilitators (Figure 1) to DPs delivering alcohol-related were identified through DPs and patients' perspectives, and through the evaluation/implementation phases of forms of alcohol brief interventions.

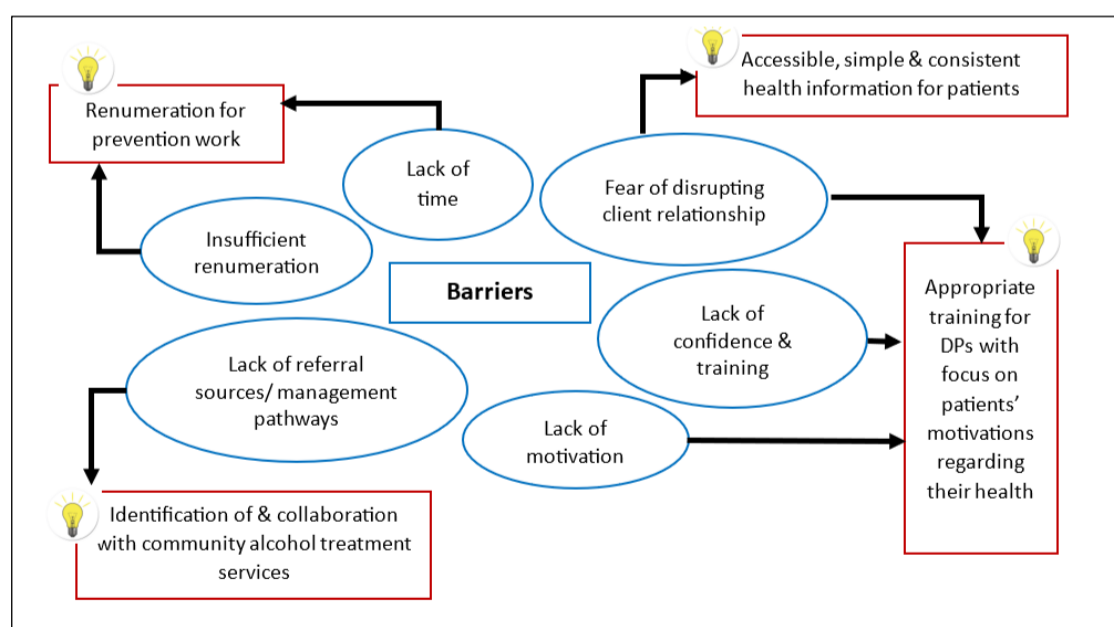


Figure 1: Identified barriers and facilitators to DPs delivering alcohol advice

Conclusion: This review showed that some DPs are willing to provide alcohol-related health advice to their patients, but need appropriate support relating to training, adequate remuneration and connections to alcohol treatment services. The review highlights that more research is needed to understand how to appropriately embed alcohol brief interventions and other suitable interventions into dental practice, to aid preventions efforts regarding cancer and harms associated with alcohol use. Policymakers, healthcare bodies and advocates should consider and make use of the opportunities DPs provide for prevention and public health purposes.

The research team have no conflicts of interest to report.