

Canadian Oral Health Screening Tool for Seniors

Guidance for administration

The Canadian Oral Health Screening Tool for Seniors developed for assessing the oral health makes it possible to screen for the most common abnormal oral and dysfunctional prosthesis conditions among seniors. Here is some information about its use.

Persons who can be screened using the tool

Any senior who, for health or autonomy reasons, cannot get to an oral health professional office

Health professionals who can administer the tool

The Canadian oral health screening tool was designed for use by non-dental health professionals.

Place of administration

The tool must be administered in a safe, quiet setting where infection prevention and control measures can be followed. The senior should preferably be seated in a chair, wheelchair or geriatric chair. If necessary, the senior may remain lying down in bed.

Instruments

Headlamp (preferred) or sufficient artificial light with a tongue depressor. The use of 2x2" gauze pads is optional.

Infection prevention and control measures

Using the Canadian Oral Health Screening Tool for Seniors requires that infection prevention and control measures be applied and followed. These include handwashing and wearing of masks, single-use gloves, and protective eyewear. It should be noted that the assessment sheet, on which observations made during the screening are noted, must be completed while following applicable infection prevention and control measures.

Administration of the tool

- Remove any removable denture (partial or full) from the senior's mouth before beginning the screening.
- Begin by screening the oral structures, followed by the other components of oral health, such as saliva, dental prostheses, implants, dental and dental prostheses hygiene, and pain. It should be noted that the dental prostheses must be screened outside of the senior's mouth.
- Systematically follow the order of the items to be screened as they are set out in the tool.

- For each item in the tool, select one of the three photos that best matches the condition of the structure or oral health component, with the help of the written description on the tool's assessment sheet.
- Keep alert for any verbal or facial expression of pain—words, cries of pain, gestures, or physical or behavioural signs—that will help you select the pain level. The pain must be related to the presence of an abnormal oral condition.

After the screening is completed

If any abnormal oral conditions were observed during the screening, consult the suggested instructions and actions in the tool's Intervention Guide.