

Smile Together makes a difference with free mouth cancer screening



Emma, Sarah, Gemma and Nat (front), Smile Together colleagues in front of their Mouth Cancer Action Month patient stand

In November Smile Together once again supported Mouth Cancer Action Month (MCAM), partnering with the Oral Health Foundation and the Mouth Cancer Foundation to raise awareness of mouth cancer and the importance of early detection.

In 2025, Smile Together focused on making a direct impact within local communities by delivering free mouth cancer screening sessions at its Penzance and Truro practices. Across the sessions, 39 patients were screened, resulting in nine urgent referrals, one GP referral, and seven non-urgent reviews.

Nat, Outreach Dental Therapist at Smile Together, said: 'We received lots of feedback from patients about how important these free pop-up clinics are. I also saw three mouth

cancer survivors, who were incredibly grateful for the additional peace of mind and shared how much they hope these sessions will continue in the future.'

Patients also welcomed the initiative, with one attendee commenting: 'Lovely ladies and well worth taking the opportunity to visit.'

The screenings were quick and non-invasive, focusing on the soft tissues of the mouth and head. Attendees also received oral cancer information and guidance on what changes to look out for, reinforcing the importance of early detection and regular self-checks.

Alongside the screening sessions, Smile Together practices created informative oral cancer awareness displays, encouraging conversations with patients and supporting understanding of mouth cancer signs and symptoms. Teams also took part in fundraising activities, including a 'Guess How Many Teeth Are in the Jar' competition, giving patients the chance to win an electric toothbrush while raising awareness in a fun and engaging way.

Smile Together is proud of the commitment shown by its teams and the positive impact of the 2025 campaign. By combining awareness-raising, fundraising, and accessible screening opportunities, the organisation continues to empower communities with the knowledge and confidence to seek help early, making a meaningful difference in the fight against mouth cancer.

Are you interested in practice-based research?

Are you a dental professional working in general dental practice?

Would you like the opportunity to get involved with research in primary care?

Dentists, dental care professionals and dental practice managers are invited to share their thoughts around research in general dental practice.

To get involved, just complete a short online survey (it should take around ten minutes) to better understand what research you're interested in.

To find out more and to take part, follow this link https://www.qualtrics.manchester.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_2m1D6X4JrwnMN2C.

If you have any questions and would like to get in touch, contact Dr Andrew Kirkcaldy (andrew.kirkcaldy@manchester.ac.uk) or Dr Wendy Thompson (wendy.thompson-2@manchester.ac.uk).

Dental nurses invited to contribute to doctoral research

A member of the Society of British Dental Nurses (SBDN) is calling for dental nurses to participate in their doctoral research study, which focuses on dental nursing.

To take part, you must be a female dental nurse working in a primary care setting, as part of a mixed or NHS contract, and you must be willing to share your journey.

To take part, please complete the form at <https://bit.ly/4qoUqqM>.

Your contribution is hugely appreciated.

Correction to the October issue of *BDJ Team*

The original articles can be found online at: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3127-3>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3128-2>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3129-1>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3130-8>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3131-7>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3132-6>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3133-5>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3134-4>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3135-3>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3136-2>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3137-1>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3138-0>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3139-z>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3140-6>,

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3141-5>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3142-4>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3143-3>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3144-2>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3145-1>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3146-0>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3147-z>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3148-y>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3149-x>, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41407-025-3150-4>.
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