



# Bridging Gaps & Standardizing Care Among Head & Neck Cancer Patients Receiving Radiation

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# Disclosures

- I have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose



# Session Objectives

The learner will:

- Identify different ways to promote interdisciplinary communication to enhance patient care in the HNC population
- Recognize positive interventions to address social risk factors in the HNC population



# Background

- HNC accounts for nearly 4% of all cancers in the United States
- About  $\frac{3}{4}$  is attributed to HPV (tobacco and excess alcohol consumption are the biggest risk factors for non HPV related) (“Head and neck cancers,” 2021)
- The Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center treats approximately 70 HNC patients a year with radiation therapy



# First Day Goody Bags

“...almost 100% of those [patients] receiving radiation for head and neck cancer will develop oral mucositis” (“Mucositis,” 2019)



Personal photo

<b>Baking Soda</b>	¼ teaspoon	½ teaspoon	1 teaspoon
<b>Salt</b>	¼ teaspoon	½ teaspoon	1 teaspoon
<b>Water</b>	8 ounces	16 ounces	1 quart

# Head & Neck Rounds

Weekly interdisciplinary meeting



Nicole SLP, Diane RD, Maura RN, Moriah SW



# Inpatient HNC Active Treatment Order Set

## New Orders

Patient to receive supplements: three times a day - between meals; Order: Ensure Enlive, Vanilla, 8 oz

Effective now, Starting today at 1448, Until Specified

Patient to receive supplements: three times a day - between meals

Order: Ensure Enlive, Vanilla, 8 oz

### Daily weights

Routine, Daily, First occurrence today at 1447

### Nursing communication

Routine, Until discontinued, Starting today at 1444, Until Specified

Additional Information: Provide 0.9% NS and emesis basin for patient to rinse, gargle and spit every 2 hours or more often for comfort.

### Nursing communication

Routine, Until discontinued, Starting today at 1443, Until Specified

Additional Information: Offer oral care after meals and nightly with a soft toothbrush. Avoid alcohol based mouth rinses.

### triamcinolone (KENALOG) 0.1 % cream

Topical, 2 times daily, First dose today at 2100

Apply a thin film from jaw line to collarbone at a 1:1 ratio with aquaphor after radiation and nightly.

Site of application: Neck

### Inpatient consult to Nutrition Services

Consult reason: Adult Patient Profile risk screen result

### SLP eval and treat

Routine, Once, today at 1441, For 1 occurrence

Reason for Speech Therapy: Clinical/Bedside Swallow Eval & Treat

Clinical Indication: Difficulty swallowing, Aspiration risk

# Key Takeaways

- Forming a new partnership with the inpatient care team
- Identifying and addressing barriers HNC patients may face when starting treatment



Blaire inpatient RN, Emily inpatient RN, Maura RN, Nicole RN



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