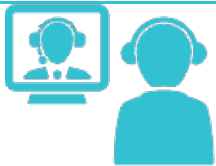


**Most problems with teeth and gums are preventable, but around 7% of the UK's 29 million workforce have called in sick with their oral health at least once in the past five years. Introducing healthy initiatives can improve working conditions that can benefit both the organisation and its employees by increasing productivity, reducing staff sickness while keeping your staff happy.**

Poor oral health costs the UK economy around **£36m** every year



## Criteria:

1. Assess and demonstrate need
2. Raise awareness and provide information about good oral health including support and resources available
3. Develop your organisational approach to support good oral health including support within policies/ processes
4. Develop an initiative/ programme of activity focussing on oral health and ensure the initiative/ activity is evaluated to demonstrate impact

## Guidance:

- Demonstrate why this standard/ module has been chosen (using evidence where possible, this could include data or employee feedback/ voice/ engagement).
- It is important to encourage and support good oral in the workplace as this has impacts on employee health and wellbeing as well as impacts on the organisation such as employees taking time off work for dental conditions or reducing productivity due to dental pain.
- Ensure employees are aware of key messages including: national guidelines on oral health; 'top tips' on how to maintain good oral health; the importance of a diet low in sugar; information about how and when to brush teeth; local dental services; links with poor oral health and smoking/ alcohol intake.
- Consider how your workplace could become oral health friendly, this could include reviewing the physical workplace environment, including replacing sugary snacks and drinks in vending machines or the canteen with dentally-friendly alternatives such as water, milk, cheese, nuts, raw vegetables and breadsticks; keeping low sugar products at eye level and making sure they are more accessible etc.
  - Consider developing an oral health policy or reviewing policies and procedures to incorporate supportive approaches such as:
  - Communicating the value of dental visits and encouraging regular attendance
  - Allowing paid time off to attend appointments
  - Encouraging employees to have a dental plan
- Consider planning a programme of activity focussed on oral health. This could include campaigns, seminars, sharing videos, signposting to online resources. You could also provide samples of fluoride toothpaste and brushes for employees.
- It is important to think about senior leadership and employee engagement to develop and implement your approach for this standard.



## Local/National Resources:

NICE oral health including workplaces [guidelines](#)  
 National Smile Month [website](#)  
 NHS dental health [webpages](#), find a dentist [webpage](#)  
 Oral Health Foundation oral health and the workplace [webpage](#)  
 Dental health [website](#)