Potential use of the OHS classification system within IHS: Updated August 8, 2019, v1

There are many potential uses for this OHS [metric] concept and data collected:

1. It can be an individual patient motivation tool.
    a. The videos demonstrate the 'live' OHS 'meter' that the patient could watch as the provider enters OHS data.
    b. When the meter registers 'Poor' [oral health], the patient will understand which aspect of their oral health is really driving their 'Poor' oral health condition.
        i. (Please review the two videos presenting oral health data entry process.)
2. Treatment can be identified as appropriate based on patient risk factors.
    a. Example: Fluoride treatments:
    b. Adult patients with low caries risk do not benefit from fluoride treatments.
        i. (likely no harm to [adult] patients; however, no benefit either)
    c. However, continued fluoride treatments on high caries risk adult patients *may* be beneficial to reduce caries prevalence.
3. OHS data can be used to guide recall frequency based on the individual patient's risk factors.
    a. Research has indicated not all [dental] patients benefit from a 6-month recall frequency.
    b. For clinics that have limited access to care, extending recall frequency to 12 or even 24 months may be beneficial for patients with no risk factors of dental disease.
4. With the OHS reporting capability within the IHS Dentrix Enterprise program, the OHS data can identify patients at risk of Caries, Diabetes, Smoking, and Dry Mouth so these patients can be recalled earlier for appropriate prevention treatment.
    a. With an individual patient risk identification/tracking capability, true outcome measures on prevention activities can be measured on a larger general population base.
        i. How many fluoride treatment[s] per year really reduce caries prevalence?, etc.
        ii. Is there a difference in fluoride type or delivery system used?
        iii. Sealant effectiveness on various caries risk populations can also be measured.
5. With the Dentrix reporting capability, specific patient needs can be identified so assets to address or benefits to provide appropriate, needed care can be estimated.
6. OHS data can be used within a database to continually measure the oral health status of a patient population - similar to the DoD Dental Readiness Classification (DRC).
7. With the OHS data collected, tracking of OHS improvement (or degradation) of individual patients - and patient population - over time is possible.
    a. (This is one of the planned reporting capability upgrade builds for Dentrix. Currently not available.)