

- Complete oral care assessment includes a swallow assessment first. Determine if a bite block is required and if additional swallow assessment is required.
- Always use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when assisting patients with mouth care and wash your hands before and after the procedure per policy.

- Document oral care in the patient record.
- Disposable oral swabs do not replace tooth brushing. They are for comfort care, one-time use only; do not leave oral swabs soaking in a cup for reuse later.
- Maintain adequate oral hydration when possible to maximize salivary flow.

Self-care and staff-assist.

Able to expectorate (spit)



EQUIPMENT

- Soft toothbrush, ADA approved
- Toothpaste and mouth rinse, ADA approved
- Mouth moisturizer prn or mouthwash
- Dental floss or interdental cleansers (optional)
- Lip balm (optional)

FREQUENCY

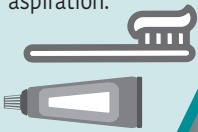
- After each meal and before bedtime.
- If patient is NPO, oral care should be done 2-4 times daily.

PROCEDURE

1. Set patient up at sink or in bed with all equipment.
2. Instruct patient to brush teeth for 1-2 minutes.
3. Use mouth rinse twice a day, swish for 20 to 30 seconds.
4. If patient is able and supply is available, use floss or interdental cleansers.
5. May moisturize interior of mouth and lips using an oral swab prn.
6. Discard disposable equipment/swab in appropriate receptacle.

Dependent for oral care.

Not able to expectorate (spit).
At risk for aspiration.



EQUIPMENT

- Suction toothbrush with oral cleaning solution packet (as appropriate and available)
- Soft toothbrush moistened with clean tap water or alcohol-free mouthwash
- Mouth moisturizer prn
- Dental floss or interdental cleansers (optional)
- Lip balm (optional)

FREQUENCY

- After each meal and before bedtime.
- If patient is NPO, oral care should be done 2-4 times daily.

PROCEDURE

1. Moisten suction or regular toothbrush as noted.
2. Assist the patient to brush all surfaces of the teeth until clean (1-2 minutes).
3. Suction debris from mouth.
4. Apply mouth moisturizer using an oral swab, to the interior of the oral cavity and apply lip balm.
5. Discard disposable equipment in appropriate receptacle.

Dependent on oral care.

Patient on a ventilator.



EQUIPMENT

- Suction toothbrush/ oral swab
- Oral cleansing solution
- Mouth moisturizer
- May consider chlorhexidine oral rinse per hospital policy – current studies are unclear as to benefit and harm

FREQUENCY

- Every four hours and pm to remove oral debris.

PROCEDURE

1. Provide suction prn to remove oropharyngeal secretions that can migrate down the tube and settle on top of the cuff.
2. Obtain suction toothbrush/oral swab and moisten with oral cleansing solution.
3. Connection suction toothbrush to continuous suction.
4. If chlorhexidine is used, remove the debris and cleanse the gums, tongue, and inside of cheeks with the solution-saturated oral swab.
5. Suction debris from mouth
6. Apply moisturizer using oral swab to the interior of the oral cavity and lips.
7. Discard disposable equipment/swab in appropriate receptacle.

Denture care or patients with no teeth.

Before the patient goes to sleep, remove and clean dentures and place them in a denture cleansing solution once daily.



EQUIPMENT

- Denture cup, labeled
- Denture brush is preferred when available, otherwise soft toothbrush
- ADA approved denture cleanser (for soaking)
- 2 oral swabs
- Denture adhesive (optional)
- Mouth rinse
- Mouth moisturizer prn or mouthwash

FREQUENCY

- Dentures are removed for cleaning at bedtime. Remove dentures when sleeping

PROCEDURE

1. After removing dentures, place in a labeled denture cup.
2. Brush the palate, buccal surfaces, gums, and tongue with the toothbrush or swab.
3. Patient can swish and spit mouthwash, or use oral swab to apply moisturizer.
4. Line the sink with paper towel and add water to cushion the dentures in case you drop them. Carefully brush dentures with warm tap water. Do not use toothpaste as this may scratch the surface of the dentures.
5. Clean and dry equipment and return to patient's bedside table.
6. Assist patient in inserting dentures into mouth.
7. If patient needs denture adhesive to hold firmly in place, follow manufacture directions.
8. Soak dentures in a denture cleanser in the denture cup at bedtime.