

DENTURES, CARE OF

PURPOSE:

1. To cleanse the mouth for personal hygiene.
2. To lessen the occurrence of mouth infections.
3. To prevent halitosis.
4. To monitor condition of mouth and gums.
5. To check for denture fit.
6. To inspect dentures for cracks and rough areas.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Container, with plain water, marked with the resident's name.
2. Brush.
3. Denture cleanser.
4. Tissues.
5. Washcloth and towel.
6. Mouth swabs.
7. Disposable gloves.
8. Emesis basin.
9. Toothbrush/paste as needed.

PROCEDURE:

1. Wash hands, apply gloves & appropriate PPE.
2. Mark dentures with identification on admission per facility policy.
3. Assemble equipment and bring to bedside or bathroom as resident prefers.
4. Place towel on resident's chest with emesis basin under chin.
5. Request resident to remove dentures and place them on tissue or emesis basin. If resident is unable to do so, remove dentures for resident.
6. To remove upper plate, push down gently to break suction.
7. Take dentures to sink and clean them with brush and denture cleanser. Use cool water and inspect for rough or broken areas. Put wash cloth or paper towel in sink or fill with 2-3 inches of water to prevent accidental breakage if dentures are dropped.
8. Have resident rinse mouth. Cleanse mouth/gums with swab/sponge.
9. Inspect resident's mouth and gums for irritated and open areas. Check denture fit and comfort.
10. Report broken or ill-fitting dentures to nurse.
11. Report mouth pain, irritation, and open areas to nurse.
12. Replace dentures in resident's mouth. Check for fit.
13. If resident is not going to replace dentures, put clean dentures in container of fresh, cool water.
14. Wash resident's face and dry well.
15. Position resident comfortably with call light in reach.
16. Wash hands.

NOTE: Encourage resident to care for dentures if able. Assist as necessary.

If resident has partials, care for as above. Assist resident with brushing remaining teeth/rinsing mouth.