

ORAL HYGIENE FOR THE UNCONSCIOUS RESIDENT

EQUIPMENT:

1. Packaged swab/toothettes
2. Resident's toothbrush or disposable toothbrush.
3. Toothpaste.
4. Mouth moisturizer – lip protectant.

PROCEDURE:

1. Check resident care plan for special instructions.
2. Raise the head of the bed if allowed.
3. Turn resident's head to side facing you.
4. Remove dentures if applicable.
5. Place towel and emesis basin under mouth/chin.
6. Use moistened toothettes and cleanse inside of mouth. Change applicators frequently and discard properly. Wipe the entire mouth, cleaning the gums, teeth, roof of the mouth, tongue, inside of cheeks and lips.
7. Inspect inside of mouth and gums for irritation and open areas, bleeding, broken or rotted teeth.
8. If teeth are present, brush teeth with small amount of toothpaste (or with disposable toothbrush, if you are able).
9. Rinse resident's mouth with warm water or diluted mouthwash using swabs.
10. If necessary, apply lip moisturizer.
NOTE: Dentures are usually not placed in an unconscious resident's mouth.
11. Repeat as often as necessary to keep mouth and lips clean and moist. Oral care is done at least once a shift on an unconscious resident.

NOTE: Apply gloves when performing oral hygiene. Follow Universal Precautions.