

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 assess condition of mouth and gums.
5. To assess 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. Lemon and glycerine swabs.
7. Disposable gloves if necessary.
8. Emesis basin.

PROCEDURE:

1. Mark dentures with identification on admission per facility policy.
2. Assemble equipment and bring to bedside or bathroom as resident prefers.
3. Place towel on resident's chest with emesis basin under chin.
4. Request resident to remove dentures and place them on tissue or emesis basin. If resident is unable to do so, remove dentures for resident.
5. To remove upper plate, push down gently to break suction.
6. 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.
7. Have resident rinse mouth.
8. Inspect resident's mouth and gums for irritated and open areas. Assess denture fit and comfort.
9. Report broken or ill-fitting dentures to nurse.
10. Report mouth pain, irritation, and open areas to nurse.
11. Replace dentures in resident's mouth. Check for fit.
12. If resident is not going to replace dentures, put clean dentures in container of fresh, cool water. (Cleanse mouth with lemon and glycerine swabs.)
13. Wash resident's face and dry well.
14. Position resident comfortably with call light in reach.

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