

Chapter 13

ORAL CARE

PROCEDURE FOR PROVIDING ORAL CARE FOR A CLIENT WHO IS HELPLESS OR UNCONSCIOUS

1. Gather necessary equipment.
2. Wash your hands and put on gloves according to procedure.
3. Explain what you are going to do.
4. Provide privacy for the client.
5. Move the client to the side of the bed nearest to you.
6. Turn the client's head to the side so that he is facing you and place towel under the client's chin.
7. Wrap a washcloth around a tongue depressor and moisten with a diluted mouthwash solution of 1 ounce mouth wash to 1 ounce water.
8. Clean the tongue and inside surfaces of the mouth with the washcloth.
9. Moisten a toothbrush with the diluted mouthwash solution.
10. Brush the teeth and with the moistened toothbrush.
11. Wipe the client's mouth with the towel. If available, lubricate the lips with lip balm.
12. Remove, clean and store equipment.
13. Remove and dispose of gloves.
14. Wash your hands.
15. Make the client comfortable.
16. Record observations and report anything unusual to the nurse/supervisor